THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

November 24th—30th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 47

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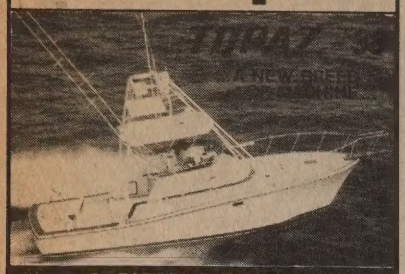

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PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB SURF TOURNEY RESULTS

This fall the Patchogue Fishing Club had three surf tournaments, all held on Fire Island between Moriches Inlet west to the Fire Island National Seashore.

First tournament on Sept. 24 & 25: Bill Rockwell, bluefish, 12 lbs.

Second tournament, Oct. 22 & 23: Jeff Mayer, bluefish, 13 lbs.; Tom Forbes, weakfish, 8.8; and Bob Bonolli, bluefish, 5 lbs.

Third Tournament, Nov. 5 & 6: all bluefish—Andy Torres, 16.8; Bill Rockwell, 15.8; Roy Terman, 15 lbs.; and Tom Kehlenbeck, 14.8.

Other good news: Two members caught big bass out on Montauk chartered boats—Ralph Bianco, striped bass of 40 lbs.; and Tom Ganetis, striped bass of 37.8 lbs.

CURRENT STANDINGS OF N.Y. SURF FISHING CONTEST

Following are the standings of the New York Surf Fishing Contest through September 30:

Standings of the clubs: Gateway Striper Club—694; Farragut Striper Club—581; High Hill Striper Club—507.

Heaviest Striped Bass: Thornton Booker, 30.0, Gateway Striper Club.

Heaviest Bluefish: Clyde Jones, 19.8, High Hill Striper Club.

Heaviest Weakfish: Johnson, 13.0, Gateway Striper Club.

Most Points—Individual (60 or more): Jack Murray, Farragut, 181; Fred Golofaro, Great South Bay, 167; John Hanson, Gateway, 163.

Release Points: 655, High Hill.

Women's Division: Bluefish, 13.12, Eileen Rance, High Hill.

Children's Division: Weakfish, 6.14, Richard Brown, Jr., Farragut.

MONTAUK MARINE BASIN SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED

The third annual Montauk Marine Basin Scholarship has been awarded to Marine Sciences Research Center (MSRC) student Seth Micah Yarish. The $1,000 award, designed to promote research on a problem affecting Long Island's coastal waters, is made possible through a donation of the Montauk Marine Basin. Mr. Yarish was selected by Marine Basin President Carl Darenberg, Jr. and a committee of MSRC faculty. Mr. Yarish's project was chosen because of its potential to yield scientific and economic benefits to Long Island.

Mr. Yarish's research is part of the MSRC's large multi-disciplinary study to assess the feasibility of using floating seaweed farms to produce gas by harvesting the energy of the sun and then breaking down this seaweed farm in Long Island Sound later this month. Plants require sunlight and nutrients to grow.

Mr. Yarish is investigating the effects of the farm on the release of nutrients from the underlying seafloor. He will use the award to carry out his plan to study the effects of added organic matter—from the pilot seaweed farm—on the seasonal relationship between nitrogen generation from the seafloor and the sinking of organic matter in Long Island Sound. Nitrogen is the major nutrient which limits primary production in most coastal ecosystems. In many coastal marine systems benthic nitrogen regeneration can supply up to 80 percent of the nitrogen required to drive primary production. Benthic nitrogen regeneration is the remineralization of organic matter, of which macroalgal detritus is a significant source, in the sediment and its release to the water column. With a better understanding of the nitrogen cycle in Long Island Sound, suggestions on deployment of future macroalgal farms can be made to better maximize the productivity of the macroalgae and the surrounding ecosystem.

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—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 47 November 24th, 1983

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Captain Ed Beneduci (left) and Sal Vicari with Sal's new state and potential world record sea bass taken at Montauk back on October 10th. The huge bass weighed 9 pounds even at *Star Island Marina* in Montauk. A current list of New York State Salt Water Records appears on page 6.

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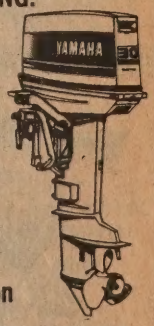

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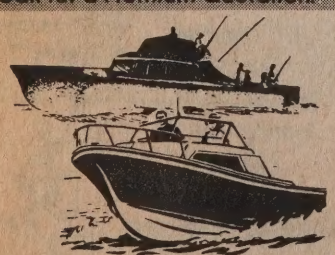

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EDITORIAL

IN RESPONSE TO: LAST OF THE HAUL SEINERS

On Sunday, November 13, 1983, Newsday's magazine section featured an article entitled "Endangered Species at Work" by John Cole. Judging by the response received here at The Fisherman, we were not the only ones disturbed by this glamorization of a "dirty fishery." The following is a copy of the letter sent to Newsday in response to Cole's article.

Letters Editor
Newsday
Long Island, N.Y. 11747

November 15, 1983

Dear Editor:

Your feature article in the Newsday magazine of 11/13/83, Endangered Species at Work, continues to demonstrate the ignorance of Newsday's editorial policy towards the recently instituted Striped Bass Management Plan. It further surprises me that a Long Island daily would serve as a forum for an industry (commercial fishing) which returns considerably less to the Long Island economy than the recreational fishing industry. Commercial fishing certainly has its place here on the Island, but let's keep things in perspective.

While John Cole laments that the new 24 inch size limit on striped bass threatens to put East End haul seiners out of business, there were some aspects of the fishery which the author failed to mention. I found Cole's glamorization of this method of harvest extremely disturbing since, as recently as the prior Thursday (11/10/83), I witnessed the carnage of what many people in fisheries management have come to term a "dirty fishery." Upon arriving on the same stretch of beach referred to in the article, and which in this case happened to be within the boundaries of Hither Hills State Park, I was appalled to find the beach strewn with the carcasses of dead bluefish and dogfish. Most of the blues fell into the 10 to 16 pound size range and just catching a few of these hard-fighting fish could be the highlight of many an angler's season. Hordes of gulls feasted on the waste as I made my way east to where Calvin Lester's crew was busy at work. While I watched at one end of the operation, I noted that several blues which had become entangled in the seine were shook from the mesh and left where they fell above the high water mark. The justification was that "blues weren't worth anything in recent days due to a glut in the market." I will say that the handful of blues entwined in the end of the mesh being handled by Lester were tossed aboard the truck. Whether it was out of respect for the resource or due to my presence as a spectator, I'm not sure.

The simple fact is that haul seining is a non-selective means of harvest. While fishermen seek the highly valued striped bass and at times weakfish, sundials, dogfish, undersized fluke, crabs, sand sharks and, on occasion, bluefish, are sacrificed and left to rot on the beach. Out of so much tradition, one would expect a greater respect for the sea's bounty.

There is further irony in the fact that much of this commercial enterprise and its accompanying waste occurs on both State Park and Suffolk County Park lands—property purportedly set aside for the recreational pursuits of state and county residents.

In reference to Cole's comments that "hook and liners, most of whom already sell their striped bass catches and anticipate even more money when their competition shuts down." Under the new law, everyone who harvests striped bass for sale will be required to purchase a $100 license. The purchase of this license is the first real step in differentiating between the true recreational angler and the commercial pinhooker. The commercial rod and reel fishery may not suffer much at Montauk but what of the tons of sub 24 inch fish that comprise the bulk of the catch taken by pinhookers in Long Island Sound and the New York Harbor area. And what of the Western Sound recreational angler who may go an entire season without taking home a legal size fish. Everyone who harvests the striper will sacrifice something but it always seems to be the netters who oppose any management plan that may cut into their profits. In most cases, their concern is clearly for the dollar and not the resource.

One other point in reference to the criticism directed at commercial rod and reelers. While many recreational anglers frown upon the practice of suposed sportsmen selling their catches, there is at least one positive aspect to this fishery. Rod and reel fishing, or handlining for that matter, allows for quotas, bag limits, and size restrictions to be placed in effect without any waste of the resource. In one paragraph, the senior Lester seems to be

proposing that "big bass, those brood fish that lay all the eggs," need protecting. That can be done easily in the case of rod and reel fishing but would be a disaster in the case of haul seining where the vast majority of big bass would have to be returned to the sea dead. There was no mention in the article that through much of the fall, big stripers rather than "schoolies" made up the bulk of the bass catch for the netters. During the week of November 7, one seining crew had days of 4000 plus, 2000 plus and 700 pounds of jumbo stripers in front of Gurney's Hotel in Montauk, this according to Calvin Lester.

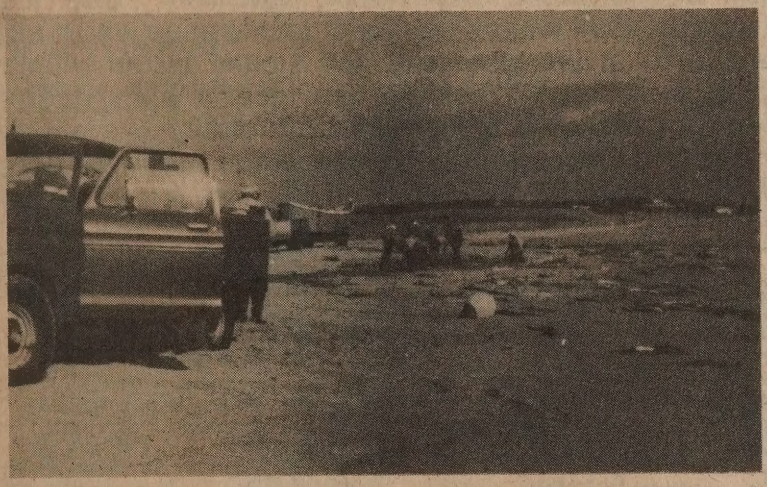
The article also seemed to imply that haul seining is the only source of income for these East End families. It should be noted that this is certainly not the case.

The recreational fishing community harbors no vendetta against the commercial fishing industry as some would lead people to believe. I myself have the utmost respect for these men who choose to make a living from such a whimsical sea. I have more respect, however, for the precious resources the sea provides. For haul seining, I hold only disdain. John Cole clearly implies that tradition is a license to abuse one of Long Island's greatest resources.

Sincerely,

Fred Golofaro

Fred Golofaro, Editor, The Fisherman



On this day, dogfish littered the beach. On the morning of November 10th, big blues met the same fate.

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NEW YORK STATE SALT WATER RECORD PROGRAM

Anglers landing a fish of record proportions may submit their entry on an official Fisherman Contest weigh slip, available at any Official Fisherman Weigh Station. Simply check the box designating state record consideration, fill in all of the requested information and send the slip, along with a photo of yourself and the fish to: The Fisherman, Post Office Box 1994, Bridge Street, Sag Harbor, New York 11963. If a Fisherman Contest Slip is not available, then a club, marina or tackle shop weigh slip will suffice. In either case, the slip must be witnessed and signed by an official weighmaster. Those qualifying as state record holders will receive a handsome certificate in recognition of their accomplishment. State record information is available from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation office in Stony Brook (516-751-7900) or from The Fisherman (516-725-4200).

Species:	Weight:	Angler:	Date Caught:	Location:
Albacore (Longfin)	59 lbs. 8 oz.	Eileen Merten	Aug. 14, 1971	Shinnecock
Black Sea Bass	9 lbs. 0 oz.	Sal Vicari	Oct. 10, 1983	Montauk
Blackfish	15 lbs. 5 oz.	Vincent Sombrotto	May 18, 1983	Peconic Bay
Bluefish	24 lbs. 8 oz.	Erin McDonnel Brown	Sept. 29, 1979	L.I. Sound
Cod	76 lbs. 0 oz.	Louis Schobel	Jan. 28, 1981	N.Y. Bight
Flounder (Winter)	5 lbs. 2 oz.	Thomas McCabe	June 27, 1983	Montauk
Fluke	22 lbs. 7 oz.	Charles Nappi	Sept. 15, 1975	Montauk
Marlin (Blue)	940 lbs. 0 oz.	Skip Lowell	Aug. 4, 1981	Montauk
Marlin (White)	130 lbs. 0 oz.	Mrs. P. Dater	Aug. 13, 1951	Montauk
Pollock		40 pound minimum		
Porgy (Scup)	6 lbs. 4 oz.	Samuel Warren	1978	Montauk
Shark (Blue)	393 lbs. 0 oz.	Roy Carpenter	Sept. 8, 1979	Montauk
Shark (Mako)	1080 lbs. 0 oz.	James Melanson	Aug. 26, 1979	Montauk
Shark (Tiger)	1047 lbs. 0 oz.	Bob Jessen	July 16, 1983	Fire Island
Shark (White)	1450 lbs. 0 oz.	Richard Pastorelli	July 24, 1965	Montauk
Striped Bass	76 lbs. 0 oz.	Bob Rocchetta	July 17, 1981	Montauk
Swordfish	492 lbs. 4 oz.	Dorothea Cassullo	July 4, 1959	Montauk
Tuna (Bigeye)	335 lbs. 0 oz.	Richard Buechmann	Sept. 27, 1981	Fire Island
Tuna (Bluefin)	1071 lbs. 0 oz.	Larry Thompson	Aug. 21, 1977	Montauk
Tuna (Yellowfin)	223 lbs. 0 oz.	Bob Jessen	July 31, 1983	Fire Island
Weakfish	17 lbs. 14 oz.	William Herold	May 31, 1980	L.I. Sound

PIKE, PICKEREL & W. PERCH

THESE POPULAR GAME AND PANFISH HAVE A DEVOTED FOLLOWING OF ANGLERS WHO HAVE REVEALED WHAT BAIT AND LURES WERE USED TO CATCH THESE FISH WHICH ALL WON PRIZES AND STATE AWARDS.

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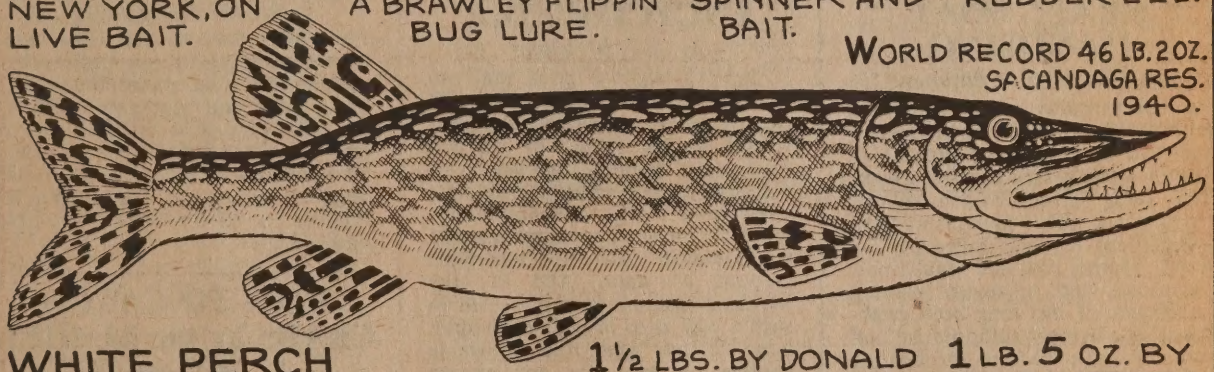
17 LBS. 12 OZ. BY DON C. GAGNIER, HAZEN POINT, VERMONT, ON A SPINNER AND BAIT.

15 LBS. BY WILLIAM ADAMS, EAGLEVILLE, MASS. ON ON A DE LONG RUBBER EEL.

WORLD RECORD 46 LB. 2 OZ. SACANDAGA RES. 1940.



WHITE PERCH

2 LB. 6 OZ. BY MATTHEW CRYSTAL IN GREEN GATE LAKE, CONN. ON A MEPPS AGLIA NO. 2.

1½ LBS. BY DONALD SWEARINGEN IN SUSQUEHANNA RIVER, MD. ON NIGHTCRAWLER.

1 LB. 5 OZ. BY STEVE SLATTERY IN LAKE PARRA, VIRGINIA ON A BEETLE SPINNER LURE.

WORLD RECORD 4 LB. 12 OZ. IN LAKE MESSALONSKEE, MAINE, 1949.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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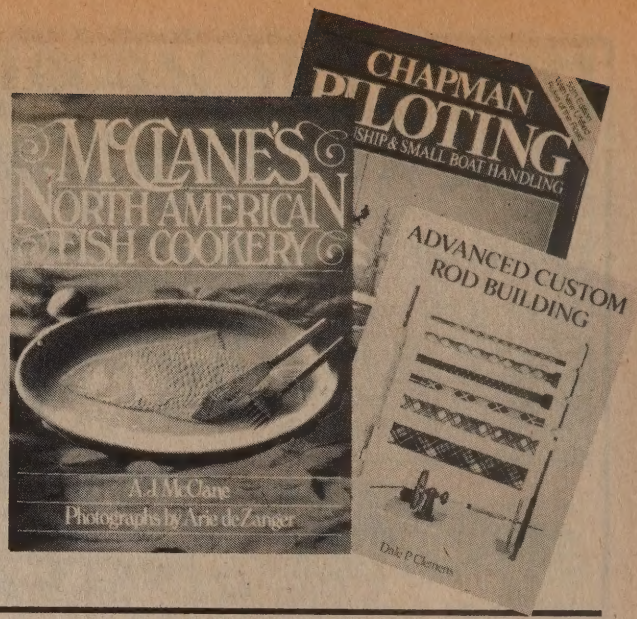

These two pages of fine angling books have been carefully selected by the editorial staff of The Fisherman and are being made available to our readers at discounted prices just in time for the gift giving season. There are titles that will please the novice fisherman as well as the seasoned veteran, books that are recognized as the standard reference on their own particular subject and cookbooks that will whet the appetites of your non-fishing friends and family.

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by Gary Soucie

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by A.J. McClane

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CHARLIE'S COD

by Matt Ahern

As I made a left turn off Island Park's main street, I said to my companion: "You follow my lead, Charlie—let me do the talking."

Charlie, fourteen ("going on fifteen") replied: "I hope he'll take me out. Gee, I want to catch a cod so bad, I can taste it."

"Don't fret. Why shouldn't he take you out? You and I...we're fishing buddies; right?"

"Sure. But I don't know. I remember one time you said Mr. Leidecker doesn't like kids."

"No. What I said was Artie Leidecker is an old grump who doesn't like anyone. But I'm used to it because he's been like that for the over sixty years we know each other. Buddies, and all that. So buck up, Charlie, and don't worry. You'll find it all bluff. You'll go codfishing today."

We approached the dock and I drove into the lot across the way and parked. Charlie and I carried our gear across the road to the bulkhead to which the "Echo" was moored. The neat 30 footer's bow was well lighted and through the gloom surrounding the light's radius, I saw a familiar, forlorn figure huddled in the stern, looking for all the world like a lost soul. "Cheer up, Artie," I said. "You're going fishing—not to the gallows."

"'Bout time you showed," he said. "We should be through the inlet by this time. What kept you?" Before I could reply, he caught a glimpse of the small figure beside me. "What's this? You didn't say you were bringing..."

I stepped aboard the Echo. "Don't start, Artie," I said in a whisper. Then I added brightly: "We got a guest."

But Artie wouldn't take the hint. "Who's this? And what's this?"

I draped an arm across Charlie's shoulder, giving it a reassuring squeeze. "This," I replied with mounting sarcasm, "this as you so ungraciously put it, is a young member of the human race. Everyone calls them kids. There are two kinds: boy kids and girl kids. This is a boy kid. His name is Charlie Lorano, and if he doesn't go codfishing with us, I don't go codfishing with you. And if I don't go codfishing with you—how in hell will you find cod on your own?"

He stared at me for a second or two. "Now, don't you start. Come over here, damn it...I want to tell you something." When we were out of earshot, he said: "You crazy or something? You want to get that kid seasick? This is winter codfishing—mid-December."

"Look. I'm the first to admit you're the best codfisherman I know, and

maybe you do have the kid's best interest at heart, but you're not the only one who knows a little something. I checked the barometer this morning—the same one you gave me last Christmas. It read 30.24 and steady when the kid and I left the house; which means this light northwesterly is good for at least another 48 hours. It will be beautiful out there today. You know it as well as I do. Just right for a boy dying to catch his first cod. So how about giving the kid a break? Damn it, don't be such a grump! I know you too long to be impressed; besides you're scaring the kid. So how about it?"

He said nothing for a second, cleared his throat, then gave a shrug. He went to the controls and started the engine; a few minutes later, we were on our way. Artie. Artie. You are a trial at times.

Just as the barometer predicted, the weather was indeed beautiful, and as we cleared Jones Inlet and met the first gentle swells of an ever-restless ocean, the sun's rising was magnificent to behold. The boy huddled beside me on the starboard bow, his hands gripped tightly around the rail. "How do you like it, Charlie?" I asked. "Feel cold?"

"Some. Not much. I like it fine. Does it ever get real rough out here?"

"Oh, sure," I said. "Real bad sometimes—especially in winter. But we're lucky today."

"I sure hope I catch a cod."

"You trust Artie," I said. "If there's a cod out there with your name on it, he'll find it. Now, I've got to spend a few minutes with him, so you be careful up here."

Artie was putting a match to his inevitable pipe as I sidled up beside him. One weather-beaten hand deftly held the wheel as his attention focused on the compass. On the small seat behind him lay his homemade chart, the net result of years of painstaking effort. "Feel better now?" he asked.

"I don't know what I'm going to do with you, Artie. Yeah...I feel better."

I glanced at the compass—south by east. "Cholera?" I inquired.

"Close; but not close enough. I figure on trying that piece northeast of Cholera—you know, that high spot south of the Gully. On this rising tide, there's 70 feet of water close by, at least; 75 or so in the gully, and maybe 60 on the high spot. With that going for us, we should get some kind of action. If we don't, we can always run west to Cholera. And if that doesn't pan out, we can make a drop on the Steel Wreck. Sound okay?"

"Sure. I'll get the bait ready."

With the boy standing by as an interested spectator, I shucked a quarter-bushel of skimmer, cut each into bait size, and put aside a like amount for chum. I then spent the remaining time teaching the youngster the basics of codfishing as it would apply that day. As most wide-awake kids are, Charlie was an apt pupil. He asked the right questions at the right place.

I had selected a light, yet fairly stiff rod for Charlie and to this I added a Penn 155, filled with 30 pound monofilament line. I tied on two 5/0 Sproat hooks, one ten inches above an eight ounce bank sinker; the other snelled to an 18 inch 40 pound leader, I placed about three and a half feet higher.

"Now, Charlie," I said, "when we begin fishing, do exactly as we do. Here—let me show you how to put on cod bait. Pay attention, now, because later you'll have to do this yourself."

A half-hour later we were anchored over the high-spot, and after allowing the "Echo" to settle for a few minutes, I began to bat skimmer over the side. "This gets the cod looking for more, Charlie. Makes them hungry."

I watched as the boy put the reel into free spool and sent his rig to the bottom. I gave a needed pointer here and there and then began fishing. In seconds he was making tentative stabs with his rod. "Bites," he said.

"Bergalls," I told him. "You'll learn to live with them if you do much bottom fishing out here. Just let the bait lie still."

As usual, Artie got the first action—a cod about ten pounds. Charlie was beside himself. "Golly! I'd stay awake nights if I caught a cod like that," he said. "Gosh, almighty, what a fish! Gee!"

Encouraged now, the three of us waited for the next cod to take hold. I was wishing the fishing gods would take notice of the kid and do something about it when I felt a slight pick, then a strong pull. I waited a few seconds, then drove the hook home. The rod arched against the cod's weight, forcing me to tighten my grip. The fish pounded for several seconds, stopping the reel cold.

I glanced at Artie. "Have the gaff ready. It's a good one."

The reel's drag setting grudgingly gave up a few feet of line as the cod backed off, bringing its weight to bear on the rod tip. I'd gain a few feet, then promptly lose them. This tug-of-war went on for several minutes when suddenly the cod tired, allowing me to slowly reel it up from the depths. As I winched the fish closer, I peered over the side and spotted a large head and glinting white belly undulating in the winter-clear green water. Easy 25 pounds, I told myself.

"Wow!" This from the boy as he watched Artie plant the gaff and lift the cod aboard. "What a fish! What a fish!"

"Better watch your rod, Charlie," Artie told him as he dumped the cod on deck and freed the gaff. "This one's got a mate down there somewhere."

If the mate to my big cod was down there, we were having trouble finding it, and after two hours of sporadic chumming our net result was an additional small cod, plus a whiting and three ling. It was time for a move.

Artie decided to anchor in the gully and within seconds, I nailed a small cod of about five pounds. Then Charlie brought up a ling, much to his delight and awe. Artie seemed to have run out of steam, which was a bit unusual for him. I went to the bow and batted more skimmers. Time, as the saying has it, was a'wastin'. Noontime came, took notice of three struggling fishermen, and passed into the realm of the unknowable.

And then it happened, as good things do for those who persevere.

I heard Charlie gasp with surprise. "Matt! I felt something! I hooked it, but it won't move!"

"Okay, Charlie, I'm here. Be careful now. You've got a nice cod. Take it slow and easy. Let it pound...don't force it." The fish stopped pumping, came along easily for a few feet, then began to pound again. Charlie stopped reeling.

"Keep him coming, if you can," I coached. "That's it...you're doing fine." I looked down into the water and caught a movement. "Here he comes, Charlie! Don't give any slack!"

The boy was clearly tuckered by now, but he was game. "Please, Matt," he said, "don't let me lose this fish. I'll never hook another like him, never." He then looked at Artie who stood to one side, gaff in hand, ever alert to the fish's movements. "Won't you please pray, Mr. Leidecker. You ain't busy."

I doubt if the boy knew what he was saying, so absorbed was he in the fish's capture and so fearful was he that it would escape. But Charlie had the makings of a good fisherman. He reeled the cod to within gaffing range and moved to one side as Artie leaned over the rail and impaled the cod through the head. Up and over it came—all 31 pounds of it!

Artie slapped the boy on the back. "You did it, Charlie! You got your cod. It's a beaut!"

The boy stood mesmerized as I removed the hook. "I don't believe it," he said. "I don't believe I caught that fish."

"Well," Artie said, once again slapping him on the back. "You did." He glanced quickly at me. "You even outfished two old salts. Why, Matt and I didn't get one like that all last winter. Can't keep a good fisherman down, you know."

We fished awhile longer, but only a few ling came aboard and we decided to call it quits.

On the way home, with both of us seated comfortably in the car and with the heater working overtime, Charlie turned to me and said: "You know, Matt, Mr. Leidecker is really a nice old guy. He's not an old grump like you said—at least not much. But what I don't understand about him is why half the time when he was fishing alongside me, he had no bait on his hooks. Why would he do that?"

"Because, I guess like you say, he's really a nice old guy. What else? But keep it to yourself. He wouldn't want you to spoil his image."

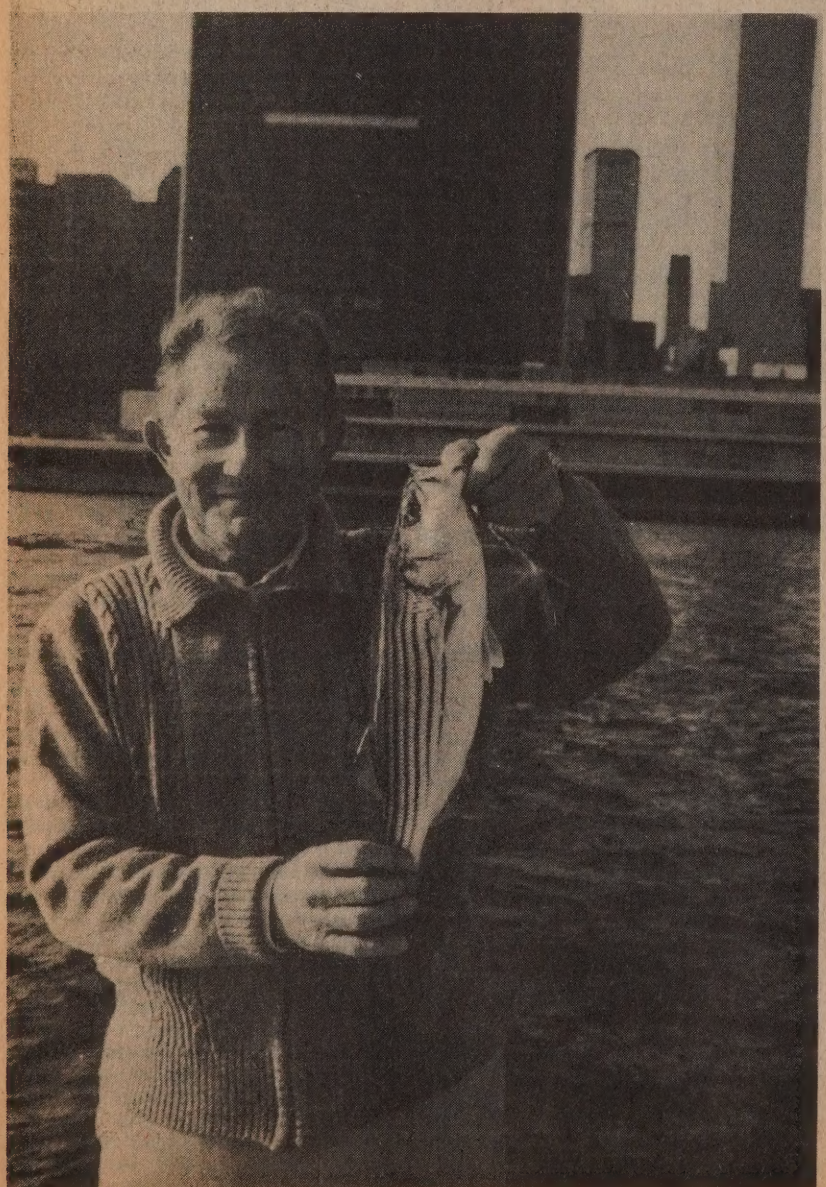
HOLIDAY STRIPERS

by Al Ristori

The New York Harbor area provides Metropolitan anglers with some excellent striper fishing between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Now that the cold northwesters have arrived and this year's very high water temperatures are finally getting back to normal, it's time to think about the annual end-of-season striped bass run in and around New York Harbor. Not only is this fishing good, but it actually seems to be improving at the very time that the overall striper situation is in poor shape.

The New York Harbor area is the beneficiary of two different striper migrations. The best known is that which fuels our coastal fisheries, the migration back to the Chesapeake Bay area. Most scientists feel that the Chesapeake accounts for the vast majority of the coastal striped bass population, but we're all familiar with the story of how that fishery has gone downhill rapidly since the last great year class in 1970. Despite years of study as to the causes for poor spawning results, we will have nothing more than educated guesses to show for all the work. As a result, the only practical solution was to lower pressure on the remaining stocks—which should be accomplished by laws raising the minimum sizes from 12 to 13 inches in Chesapeake Bay and to 24 inches along coastal areas.



A typical East River striper with the UN Building in the background.

The second migratory run through New York Harbor is in much better shape. Spawning results in the Hudson River during the last several years have been very good. Furthermore, the PCB problem which led the state to close the Hudson to commercial striper fishing has created an environment in which the species can flourish. Though we don't have adequate historical records with which to make comparisons, it appears that Hudson striper stocks are at a high level—and that virtually ensures good fishing in the harbor area late in the fall.

In the fall, bass are where you find them—though some spots are fairly consistent. The Tin Can Grounds, the edges of Ambrose Channel, and Shrewsbury Rocks are the likeliest spots to check. Commercial hook-and-line trollers work the Tin Can Grounds well into December and continue to do well with schoolies long after most anglers have written off bass for the year. While working birds will usually indicate only bluefish before November, chances are you'll now find school bass underneath them. Check out such birds no matter where you see them as the stripers are moving and working over any schools of bait spotted on the way into the harbor.

Though schoolie fishing is still very good, big bass are harder to come by now than ever before. A decade ago I used to put in a few days each fall with Manhattan striper pro Vince Scotti, and we rarely returned without a good mess of jumbos up to 50 pounds. Vince fished both bunker spoons and his own special tubes worked off a single bar. Sandy Hook, Sea Bright, Flynn's Knoll, and Roemer Shoals were the usual haunts of the big stripers, though the Rockaways were also productive at times. Except in shoal areas, the lures were trolled at mid-depths in 30 to 40 feet of water.

Apparently it was the Chesapeake

migration which provided us with most of the cows, and there just isn't much left to that fishery. Nevertheless, some good scores of big bass continue to be made by those willing to put in the time. The better bet now would seem to be trolling in areas of good structure, such as Roemer Shoals, rather than over open bottom. Large stripers can be expected to stick around until at least Thanksgiving, but usually leave a couple of weeks before the schoolies do. Very few local anglers fish at night due to navigation problems and the constant threat of floating wood from rotting piers, but that is still the most logical time to seek out a real trophy.

The most consistent means of catching schoolies in the late fall is by trolling umbrella rigs on wire line. From a quantity standpoint that method is hard to beat. The alternative is to jig the fish with both diamond and lead-head jigs, tiger tails and Nordic eels. A very slow retrieve just a bit off bottom will work, as will straight "yo-yo" type jigging on bottom. While trolling in likely areas can be effective even when the fish aren't obvious, those using jigs normally look for signs of bird action or check out readings on their graph recorders. There's an incredible amount of bait around the harbor late in the fall and not every flock of excited birds will have stripers under it—nor will every heavy reading of bait indicate the presence of bass.

The inside of the harbor can be as productive as the ocean waters, though the bass tend to be smaller. Young-of-the-year bass swarm around the city's piers. On cold fall nights I've often seen dozens of 6 to 10 inch stripers swimming around the fringes of light cast from Manhattan piers. Larger schoolies also hang around these piers, but even a 10 pounder is considered unusual. Naturally, the same sort of thing occurs around Brooklyn and Queens piers. Boat fishing within the harbor is very good in November and December, though few anglers take advantage of it. Every type of structure imaginable exists in these waters, and one can only wonder how good the striper fishing was in those days before pollution took hold.

I've fished the harbor waters with Doctors Gary and Ben Sherman of Brooklyn many times, and we've always come up with enough action to make up for the cold weather. To be sure, most of our catch has consisted of shorts by the old 16 inch standard—and fewer still will fulfill the present 24 inch requirement. Nevertheless, it's great sport and a unique opportunity to tag lots of small stripers. Then again, there are a few bigger fish. For instance, one cold Saturday last fall Steve Sloan boated an IGFA world record 10.6 pound striper on two pound test line while we fished with Gary Sherman off the tip of lower Manhattan. Shortly before that, I had taken a bass of similar size from the same area.

Even larger bass are likely to be encountered along the edges of the channel leading upriver by those using big fish techniques—such as trolling large plugs on wire line. The schoolies are more apt to be on the flats and off points and other obvious structure. At times it may even pay to cast popping plugs and jigs into shallow waters. Gary favors one and two ounce diamond jigs for this fishing, with the size depending on depth of water, tide and drift. Some anglers do nothing but drift with seaworms and that method is very effective.

There is no limit as to where school bass go around New York City. They're found not only in the Hudson but also throughout the East River. In addition to the stripers returning from the ocean, there are many more coming in from Long Island Sound after the big fall run in the Eaton's Neck area dies out. Specifically where to fish is a matter which can be left to your imagination. Likely areas are endless and you'll find few boats on the water. Find a spot and it may be all yours for years to come.

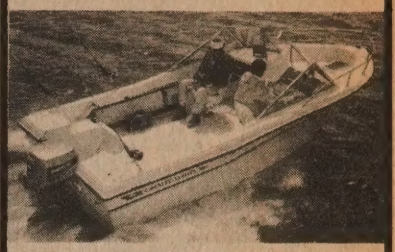
The same thing applies to shore fishing. Every pier and sea wall is a likely spot, particularly at night. Access is a problem you'll have to deal with—and safety is another! As the vast majority of your catch will consist of shorts, why not obtain tags from the American Littoral Society at Sandy Hook, New Jersey and make good use of them? If you're really serious about tagging, you might want to contact the New York State DEC in Stony Brook. Guy DeBlasio has tagged hundreds of stripers for them from Manhattan piers over the last few years and that sort of activity should greatly increase our knowledge of the Hudson stocks.

The change in the striped bass size limit to 24 inches should have a dramatic effect on the harbor fishery. A great many of those bass caught in the ocean will now fall under that limit, and the harbor fish will rarely be legal. Most of the few boats fishing up to this point have been hook-and-line commercials, but it may become more of a pure sporting proposition now.

To be very frank, the eating quality of the bass in the harbor leaves something to be desired. I keep only those that still have a purplish sheen, indicating that they've just arrived from the ocean. Even then, I fillet them and cut out the dark meat in the center. After all that, some are fine and others still taste of the river. An additional consideration is the high PCB level of Hudson River fish, a situation that dictates only occasional consumption.

There are some problems with the New York Harbor late fall striper fishery, but from an angling viewpoint it's hard to beat. If you aren't worried about making money or filling the freezer, this can be your opportunity for some old-fashioned striper angling!

1984
Grady-White



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PCBs IN BASS

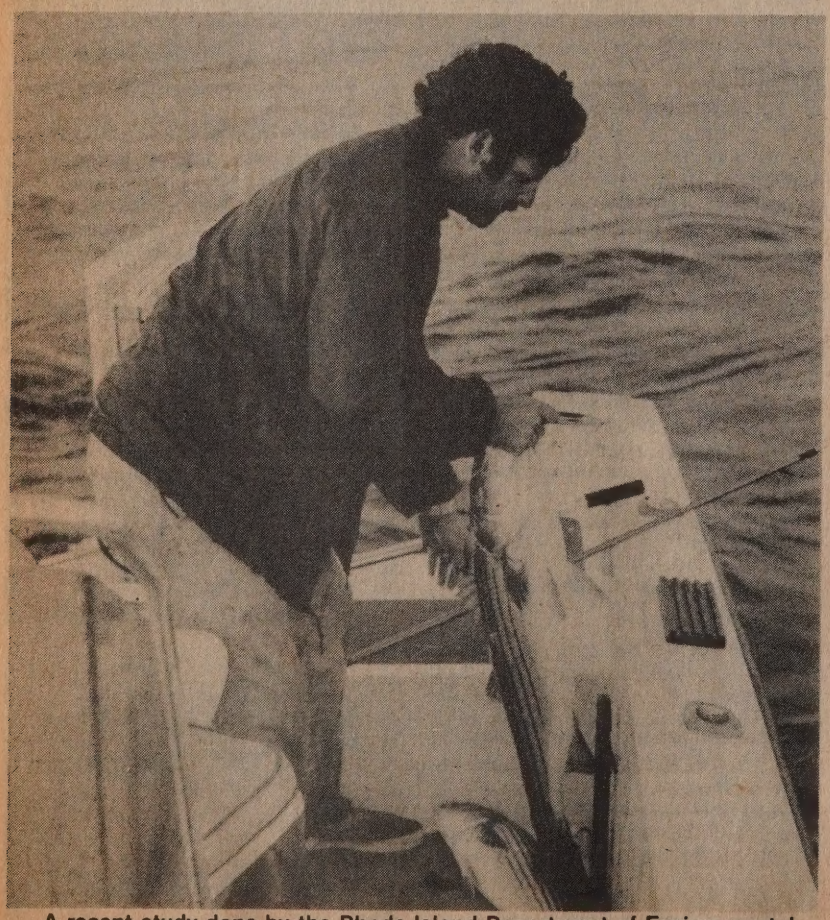
by Fredrick Thurber

There is some new news on the PCB scene and none of it is very good. It looks like the PCB problem will continue to plague bass and locations other than the Hudson have been found to be polluted by the chemical.

In case you didn't know, PCBs stand for polychlorinated biphenols. They are a family of very stable chemicals that were used in things like electrical transformers because of their ability to handle high temperatures and currents. This stability is one of the problems: once PCBs get into the environment they persist and do not degrade like most other chemicals. Instead they get into the food chain and eventually reach us. PCBs are suspected of causing sterility in males and have been implicated in cancer and birth defects in laboratory animals. They enter the body from a variety of sources, not just food. PCBs can be absorbed directly through the skin if touched or through the lungs if inhaled. Once they get into the body they accumulate in the fatty tissues and stay there an indeterminate amount of time.

Although they have only recently attracted public attention, PCBs have been around for a long time. Only in the last 10 years or so have analytic tools been refined enough to allow measurement of their levels. Previously, the standard measuring device, the gas chromatograph, had confused PCBs and DDT. With new techniques available to directly measure PCBs, their environmental pervasiveness was discovered and public concern mounted.

A pamphlet about PCBs issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) warns that of the foods most likely to contain the chemical, fish are especially suspect. This is where bass come into the picture because it was found that many of them are highly contaminated.



A recent study done by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management suggests that about 50 percent of the bass caught in Rhode Island originate there.

The primary place that bass pick up PCBs is the Hudson River. Approximately 15 percent of all the PCBs discharged to the environment in this country were dumped into the Hudson by General Electric's Ft. Edward and Hudson Falls manufacturing plants. A study entitled "The Problems of PCBs in the Hudson River System (DEC)" (1979) estimates that slightly more than 600 metric tons (1,320,000 pounds) of PCBs contaminate the Hudson River Basin.

"Generally speaking," the report goes on to say, "contamination of the Hudson River Basin exceeds, in level and scope, any other area found to date in the USA."

The Hudson, of course, is a major nursery and feeding area for the striped bass. A recent study done by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management suggests that about 50 percent of the striped bass caught in the Rhode Island area orignate there. With the recent poor year classes in the Chesapeake this percentage may grow.

Testing of bass from the Hudson showed that the average level of PCBs in their flesh is a little over the FDA's maximum of 5 parts per million (ppm). Most of the fish tested were below this level; the average was brought up by smaller numbers of fish with extremely high levels such as 30 or 40 ppm of PCBs. An interesting analogy can be made to Extra Strength Tylenol. Although the **average** cyanide level in all bottles was not toxic, the wrong was deadly. However, it is doubtful whether a single exposure to a bass with 40 ppm level of PCB contamination would be toxic and it is not known if the fish with the highest PCB levels migrate out of the Hudson into areas that are open to commercial harvest.

Last year, in response to public concern, the Rhode Island DEM analyzed 25 bass for PCBs. The results showed an average that was well under the FDA's maximum level of 5 ppm. This suggests that the sample size was not large enough to pick up one of the abnormally high fish that drove up the average in the Hudson studies, or that the fish had somehow diluted the PCBs through additional growth.

Unfortunately the Hudson is not the only area that is polluted with PCBs; the Chesapeake Bay and New Bedford harbor are also. According to Dr. John Boreman of National Marine

Fisheries in Woods Hole, levels as high as one part per hundred have been recorded in New Bedford harbor. That's one percent PCB! A study is under way now to determine the extent and level of contamination there. It is possible that the contamination levels of New Bedford harbor may rival or even dwarf those of the Hudson. A bass that consumed eels or pogies from the harbor could very easily pick up enormous amounts of these toxic chemicals. A bass doesn't even have to eat contaminated prey to pick up PCBs. When previously uncontaminated bass have been placed in underwater cages in the upper Hudson they absorbed a few parts per million of PCBs in their flesh after 14 days of swimming in the water. I would certainly be cautious about eating any type of fish caught in the vicinity of New Bedford harbor.

The PCB problem is not one that is likely to clear up soon. They are tricky to dispose of because if dredging is not performed carefully, the spoils will yield PCB laden vapors and dust which can enter the human body directly through the skin and lungs. In Providence air levels have been recorded that are 100 times 'normal' air sampled off the Georges Bank. Concentrations in the air near the Hudson have been recorded at a level a thousand times that of the Providence reading.

Neither can PCBs be easily incinerated. If not burned in special high temperature furnaces they will form even more toxic chemicals called polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs). These chemicals may be the culprit in the **Yusho** disease contracted by Japanese who inadvertently ate rice oil contaminated with massive amounts of PCBs. The symptoms included eye irritation, acne-like eruptions of the skin, vomiting, and liver dysfunction. These same PCDFs have also been found in the Hudson.

After General Electric cut back their PCB discharges in 1976, the level of PCBs in fish from the river dropped sharply for a few years. Biologists and conservationists were optimistic that the Hudson was cleansing itself by degradation and by silting over the PCB deposits. Unfortunately the picture may have changed. According to a recent DEC report called "Temporal Trends Toward Stability of Hudson River PCB Contamination," PCB levels seem to have stabilized at a figure high enough to prevent future economic exploitation of fish in the Hudson. The future of commercial bass fishing in the Hudson will be even bleaker if the FDA's proposed new maximum permissible level of PCBs in fish of 3.5 or 2 ppm is enacted.

Hudson PCB levels may actually be higher this year because of extensive spring flooding in its watershed. PCB levels have historically 'spiked' up after a flood; it is thought that the increased water flow stirs up PCBs that had been silted over. DEC scientists are carefully monitoring the situation.

Strangely enough, PCBs have had little effect on the stripers reproduction. The bass population in the Hudson is robust and has produced a number of good year classes in the last ten years or so. The 1983 year class may also be very good. The absence of commercial fishing pressure must certainly have helped; maybe this is what's needed in the Chesapeake.

The outlook seems pretty grim but there are some possible solutions on the horizon. One of the most promising ways of dealing with PCBs is by using natural organisms to degrade them. Already there exist bacteria in the sediments of the Hudson that can break down some of the less stable varieties of PCBs. Scientists are now working on genetically manipulating and breeding such organisms to give them the capability of dealing with all types of PCBs.

Of course, the best way to deal with the problem is to avoid it in the first place. Corporations that have dumped toxic chemicals into the Hudson and the James River in the Chesapeake have lost large settlements in court cases. To prevent future disasters we must remain vigilant and vigorously pursue offenders.

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BLOCK ISLAND'S INSHORE COD

by Steve Slocum

During the last week of November, at the heels of the departing bass, shoals of sand eels are eagerly being consumed by the newly arrived codfish. Only several days before, the bass were dining so to speak; a shift in water temperature a degree or two, the bass exit the establishment—presto, the cod, some markets, mostly the scrod size appear in ever increasing numbers.

Commonly used bottom fishing gear such as a Penn Jigmaster with 20 to 30 pound test line is more than adequate for this fall inshore fishery. Rod lengths vary from 5½ to 8 feet or so, with a preference for the longer stick evident by many, as the added leverage of the longer rod aids in setting the hook as well as prying the cod off the bottom during the first few moments following a hookup. Lighter conventional gear is now utilized by many anglers, with line weights from 17 to 20 pound test. These downsized outfits augment the pleasure of playing market and scrod size cod, as well as their inherent sensitive response to the lightest of bites. Some reels used in this smaller league are Penn 920 & 930, as well as Garcia Ambassadeur 6500 & 5500C.

Rods combined with the smaller reels can be of fiberglass as well as the newer graphite, either pure or of composition. In fact, heavy freshwater rods, the ones designed for lunker bass are finding their way to the cod grounds, including the Shakespeare Lunkersticks, and a good selection from Fenwick. Spinning gear is also found out here, but it can't come close to the conventional's ability to handle the fish.

Single or double hook cod rigs adorned with fresh sea clams or fresh ocean quahog bait the size of a quarter to a half dollar, work well for these small fish. These rigs can either be homemade versions that are simply hooks and leaders, or the manufactured ones with orange or red tubes adjacent to the hooks. However, over the last several years, a good imitation of sand eels do the job just as well if not better than bait. And by the way, why hassle with clams and such, when an artificial does the job? But fish (and the cod is no exception) have many moods, and it is recommended to equip one's island expedition with a minimum of a half bushel of clams, just in case.

The jigs themselves vary from three to six ounces in weight. For some strange reason, a cod wants his meal delivered almost vertical and will refuse the offering many times if this delivery is not offered. At times of fast tides and/or strong winds, jigs of up to 10 ounces or so fit this delivery. As for tubes, use sizes from 5/0 to 8/0 in white, fluorescent orange, green and black. The commercially available tubes produced by Jeros & Zing among others, work well. Homemade tubes are also used extensively, with the hook usually

The beauty of fishing inshore on the east side of the island is you are out of the prevailing NW wind. Of course, there's still the ride home.

being a Mustad Limerick #31022.

In rigging the diamond jig dropper combination, use a black barrel swivel located 1½ to 2 feet above the jib. Employ a short length of leader (6-10 inches on the finished product) to display the dropper. At times many anglers replace the bottom treble of the jig with a moderate size free swinging single hook. In addition to this, some anglers place an additional tube (with hook) at base of the jig.

As for the actual jigging, one variation is drop the jig and dropper to the bottom and reel slow—just enough that the tube swirls in slow revolutions. If one dropper fails the swirl test along the side of the boats, check swivels for ability to rotate. If necessary, bend the tube until desired action is produced. Reel up about 6 to 10 feet, and drop 'em down again to the bottom and repeat.

Another jigging variation is simply drop the jig and tube down until bottom contact is made and jig the rod tip up and down at 1 to 3 foot drops. Try several routines: one with fast, rather sharp jerks of the rod, followed by a rather short pause, and one with slow sweeping rod lifts with lengthened pauses.

When using clams as bait on rigs, use bank sinkers from 4 to 12 ounces. Use the lightest weight the conditions will allow. If the bait rig begins to get "bergalarized," move around a bit. Sometimes one may avoid these critters and finally locate a pod of cod. As for chumming for fall cod, scatter small bits of clam (including the freshly opened shell halves with material attached) from an anchored boat is fine.

Other points are try to acquire fresh sea clams or ocean quahogs for bait. Inland bay 'hogs are better than no bait at all, but they are in third position as bait. Use the smaller size hooks, of 4/0 to 6/0 for these cod—with a definite preference among many anglers of a bronze claw style either by Mustad or Eagle Claw. Sharpen those hooks with a file or sharpening stone. It also is recommended to check the hook point frequently, bouncing off rock and gravelly bottoms is hazardous to the hook's health!

The beauty of fishing the inshore cod grounds at Block Island, is the prevailing wind of late autumn is usually from the northwest. The better cod spots are located in the lee of the island on the east side. It is worth noting, at times if the wind and currents are appreciable, and the feeding cod are relatively stationary on the bottom, a carefully dropped anchor upstream and/or upwind will hold one nicely on target.

The season of the fall inshore cod is fairly predictable most years, with mid-November to New Year's Day productive. Try fishing on the east side: one is 30 to 60 feet of water off of the buoy C3, near Clayhead, plus in 30 to 60 feet of water off of Old Harbour and east of South East Light, again in 30 to 60 feet of water.

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ABOUT THOSE DEADLY SWIMMERS

Part Two—*by John Fritz*

The author continues his treatise on these deadly surf lures.

In continuing our coverage of the minnow-shaped swimming plugs, I will attempt to describe some of the methods used to produce game fish over the years. Some of the techniques may seem illogical, but when one is not catching fish any trick that will incite some action is acceptable. Don't hesitate to experiment, for all of the proven practices of today were once conceived in the mind of a perceptive angler of yesteryear. Of course, when trying exploratory methods, consideration should be given to other surfmen fishing nearby so that your actions will not interfere with their more conventional approach.

It has been pointed out that these types of lures are best suited for calm waters, but this statement is not meant to imply that they should not be used along the oceanfront beaches. When weather and sea conditions permit, these slim swimmers can be a top fish producer in the surf as well as in the more sheltered waters. Even though the seven inch sizes and the stubby six inch Rebel Windcheater are frequently chosen to work the surf line there are occasions when the 5½ inch sizes will prove more attractive to finicky game fish.

Basically these lures are most favored when fishing between the hours of sunset and sunrise, a time when wary game fish use the cover of darkness to prowl the water's edge. It is important, therefore, to work the plug all the way into the wash, for frequently the predator will cruise along the lip formed by the breaking surf. With this thought in mind, it is always a good idea to make a few exploratory casts close to the shore before wading into the water. In a similar vein smart surfmen, when fishing along essentially deserted shores, will be seen to make casts parallel to the beach as well as to their front.

There are many methods used to retrieve these plugs but the most important point to remember is to reel your lure SLOWLY. I mean slowly, sometimes just barely turning the handle of the reel. In some instances, when working a strong rip, it is better not to reel at all, just enough to keep the slack out of the line with maybe a bit of life given to the plug with a twitch of the rod tip. In slow moving currents the jointed models often produce the added action needed to induce a strike, whereas in exceptionally fast moving water it is often necessary to change to a plug with less built-in action such as the Hell-cat.

The sinking models are designed to swim at or near the bottom, hence they are most often chosen when fishing over sandy, unobstructed shores. Since their purpose is to swim deep, give the plug time to sink after it hits the water. All too often the caster will begin his retrieve as soon as the plug lands, thereby negating the reason for using a sinking plug. In particularly deep water where the fish are lying at an intermediate level, count off the seconds the plug is allowed to sink so that you will have some indication as to how to duplicate a productive retrieve.

If no response is forthcoming after trying several different plug types it is time to experiment with various retrieves. Let the plug lie motionless for a few seconds during the course of the retrieve, possibly giving a twitch with the rod tip. Let a sinker, carried by a surging current, slide along the bottom with just a gentle rise and fall of the rod. Give the rod tip a sharp jerk, intermittently during the retrieve, to force a surface swimmer to dart towards the bottom. There are numerous possibilities, but the most important advice is to reel the plug in at a crawl.

Many of these plugs, even though mass produced, are finely balanced lures which can lose their effectiveness when foreign objects are added. Seaweed collected on the lip or snagged on any of the hooks of these light plugs can seriously affect its swimming action. During twilight hours such impediments can be seen. At night the plug should be checked before each cast, a task which can be performed without using a neck light by running one's finger over the lure.

The most common method used to link the plug to the end of one's line is with the use of a snap. In most instances it is best to use the smallest snap practical, one that will not detract from the lure's action. The use of a snap without a swivel is recommended by most experienced plug casters. In order to point out the fact that basic theories, devised to be copied in a frequently exacting sport, are occasionally intended to be broken, I will elaborate a bit more on the incident mentioned last week regarding a trip to the Island of Nantucket.

If questioned, the vast majority of successful anglers will answer that the plug should be connected to the line by using the smallest snap possible, consistent with the size of the fish expected to be caught while allowing the eye of the lure free movement within the bend of the snap. Favorites among the saltwater clan are the Duo-Lock and Coast-Lock snaps; both are sturdy, rust-free items available in sizes to suit every surfman's needs. With this theory in mind and followed precisely by the anglers from Long Island, they are still experiencing difficulty in producing results remotely similar to the success enjoyed by a group from New Jersey.

The prized Hell-Cats were acquired and used religiously, but the number of striped bass they were beaching was insignificant when compared to the scores being racked up by the other crew. Finally the difference was uncovered, how I'm uncertain, but the lightweight Hell-Cats were connected to the line by means of an extra large snap swivel, a concept totally alien to these experienced anglers, but one which obviously produced the desired results. The reason behind the success can only be speculated upon, possibly the burden of the over-sized snap swivel forced the plug to swim at a greater depth marking the feeding zone of the bass at that particular time and place.

On the opposite end of the spectrum are those sharpies who disdain the use of any metal connector, preferring instead to tie the plug directly to the line. This is a technique which I have seen make the difference on numerous occasions, but one which makes changing the lure clearly more difficult. When using any sort of hardware it is best to use dark colored items. This is especially important when bluefish are present for they are

often attracted to any shiny object, possibly provoking a strike at the snap and resulting in a lost plug. Even though wire leaders are used by many successful plug casters their use can be detrimental when seeking wary stripers and discriminating weakfish.

It has been mentioned that teasers are very effective when using this type of swimming plug. The original teasers were fashioned mostly from feathers and occasionally from bucktail. Either material produced an additional attraction which could be used with a wide variety of lures including such diverse items as tins and popping plugs. With the recent introduction of the Red Gill as a teaser, the need for a slower retrieve became apparent. Therefore, they are an ideal complement to the minnow-shaped swimmer. Hair or feathered teasers can be formed in any length desirable relative to the size of the lure being used and/or the dimensions of the present bait. Initially the Red Gill was only available in three sizes, a restriction which placed a handicap on those anglers trying to match this teaser with existing conditions. At the present time there are three, maybe four sizes, depending on your thoughts about using the 172mm size, appropriate for use as a teaser. I will disregard the largest of the line, a giant which measures over eight inches in length. The most commonly used Red Gill in our area since their introduction a few years back has been the 115mm Rascal. While this soft rubber imitation of a sand eel worked well enough, the selective angler now has two additional models to choose from—the tiny 65mm for use with small plugs and diminutive baitfish and a new 112mm size similar to the standard Rascal but slimmer and with a redesigned tail.

Few, if any, surfcasters would consider rigging this type of plug, or any other for that matter, on a leader tied to a three-way swivel. The second eye leads to the sinker placed various distances away from the eye with the third naturally secured to the terminal end of one's line, similar to a standard bottom fishing rig. Even though it is rarely if ever used when fishing from the surf, this setup is deadly when fishing from a structure which projects out into the currents and deep waters of a channel, inlet or other body of fast moving water. It is a favorite of some pier fishermen who use this technique to take bass from various piers which jut out into the Hudson and East Rivers. This rig is not cast away from the structure, merely lowered into the water alongside the pier where the plug is allowed to swim tantalizingly in the currents near the protective underpinning, a natural area for a predator to lie in wait.

Aside from the fact that this type of plug has proven effective over many seasons, it is also one which will grant the angler the opportunity to experience the total fighting ability of the fish he seeks. The use of lighter tackle and thinner line will compel the angler to play the fish more cautiously, increasing both his sport and admiration for his adversary. These are all plugs which can induce a startling, savage strike on an otherwise quiet evening or it will receive little more than a gentle nudge to which an angler must respond instantly with a hook-setting thrust of the rod or the opportunity will be missed.

Put aside the heavy tackle for those infrequent occasions, usually in the fall, when they are necessary. Make more use of these featherweight plugs, they will catch fish while increasing your enjoyment and at the same time, require less effort to cast. The latter an added benefit which will result in the angler spending more time in the water pursuing his favorite sport—surf casting.

Minnow-shaped swimmers worked around jetties and rock piles produce trophy weaks along with stripers.

LIGHTSTICK WHITING

by Greg Venturo

A swordfish technique will help you score on whiting and ling.

The evening was dragging on and my brother Perry was giving me the look. We had taken out a party of four for night whiting and we were on our third drop of the night with only a handful of whiting to show for it.

At that time, I was chartering my 26' Wahoo "Sea-Lore" and I had no generator on board. We would bring an extra battery or two and hook them up to four 12-volt spreader lights on a T-top I had installed. This provided an adequate source of light for the boat, but not the larger circle of light that the party boats had with their big generators and quartz or mercury vapor lighting systems.

Anyway, while sipping a cup of coffee with my brother, we discussed how large areas of light drew in sand eels and other bait to the larger party boats. As we talked my mind drifted back to the warmer days of summer and the runs we'd make offshore to the canyons. As Perry and I talked about laying over at night for swords, an idea came to mind. I opened up my console door and grabbed a handful of lightsticks. My brother soon picked up on my train of thought and had made three drop lines with about 20 ounces of lead on each. We soon had the lightsticks working and started dropping the three lines over the side with lightsticks attached.

My party looked at my brother and I and probably wondered if they were fishing with a crew that had a full deck! There is always that lump in a captain's throat when his people aren't catching fish and I hoped this crazy idea would work.

With a line off the bow, one in the middle and one off the stern, I figured there was an adequate source of light on the bottom to hopefully draw bait and fish. What the hell, I couldn't catch any less fish. Well, 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes went by and I thought to myself, I wasn't catching any less, I just wasn't catching.

I was starting to plan my next move when my brother Perry called out, "fish on." Big deal, one fish! But before Perry had taken the whiting off, he called out again, "two more on Greg." Pretty soon we had a nice pick going and eventually the night closed out with a mixed bag of around 175 whiting and ling for four men. I was quite relieved with the outcome that evening.

Coincidence, you might say, a school of fish probably moved in. Well, I kind of thought the same. On the next few expeditions out, I tried the light sticks again and they certainly outproduced other fishermen and other private boats' catches. Not always in great number, but if I fished a head boat, we usually outproduced non-lightstick equipped anglers.

I'm sure many of you fish for whiting and ling and I'm sure you've seen the glo-rig and glo-skirts that are attached to the rigs. Some nights these will outfish plain bait rigs and

Ed Stark and Wayne Pinder display proof that lightsticks work.

some nights it doesn't make a difference, but the advantage is always nice to have.

I strongly feel that night fishing for winter frostfish is greatly affected by the amount of bait that is drawn into the boats' areas by the lights. Naturally, tides and water temps will play their part as to whether or not fish will bite. I'm not claiming that lights from a boat are the sole answer to a catch, but I strongly feel that in waters up to 60 or 70 feet, it makes a difference. Many fishermen will venture out in late October or early November in smaller boats to fish whiting and ling in daylight; but due to poor light, will not fish at night.

The lightsticks are the least expensive and possibly the most effective way of putting light on the ocean floor. By simply attaching a lightstick to your swivel above your baits, you will produce a nice glow that should draw a good percentage of baitfish. Remember to place a lightstick or two on stationary line so a constant source of light is down there. By placing the lightstick several feet above the sinker, you will get more area covered by light than by placing it directly on the ocean floor and cutting off 180 degrees of possible light.

If you are fishing on a head boat, give the cylumes a try. I'm sure you will get quite a few weird looks, I know I did. However, it seems that by the middle of the night you can sell those lightsticks to anybody who looks at your catch—they really do work.

If you have your own boat, you can further facilitate your lighting of the boat with the 12 volt spreader lights. These lights are relatively inexpensive (maybe $25 or so) and are easy to rig up. Mount them at the highest possible point near the cockpit of your boat so you can utilize a larger percentage of the light. Be careful, these lights are a heavy draw on your batteries. I would recommend carrying a spare battery or two along with a good set of jumper cables just in case your batteries are too low to start your engine.

If you have a little more money to play with, you can pick up a Mercury vapor light at Rickels for around $35 to $40. These lights are 120 volt and must be wired very carefully. Be sure not to place a Merc vapor light too close to wood, fiberglass or canvas. They throw out a lot of heat and a fire is the last thing you need on the boat. Well, you say $35 to $40 isn't that bad, but if you don't have a generator aboard your light won't work. The small portable generators produced by Honda, Suzuki, Kawasaki, Briggs, Stratton, etc., can be purchased for $500 to $700. They should produce at least 1200 watts to run Merc vapor or Quartz lights effectively. Now you can see three viable options for producing light for whiting. Whichever one you choose, the lightstick should be used in all cases.

So next trip out for frostfish, put a little light (stick) on the subject. I think you'll see illuminating results.

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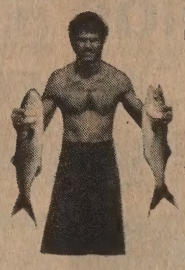

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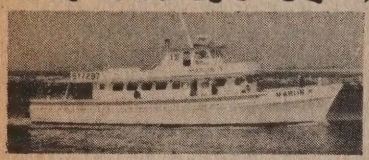

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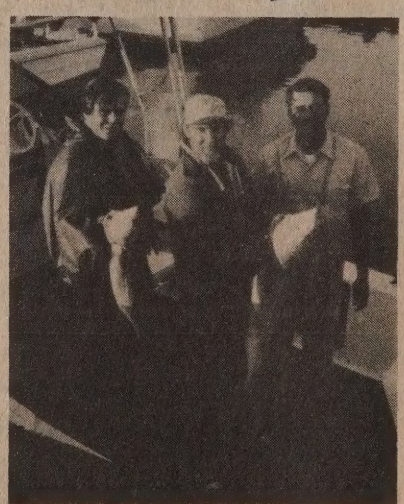

A party board Captain Bob Rochetta's charter boat "Rainbow II, with two bass to 32 lbs. taken at Montauk. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

THE FISHERMAN

All the news of fish in print.

East End REPORT

with Stu Miller

Decent catches of cod, sea bass, blacks and blues continue to be made, though things are not super hot or even medium hot. There are exceptions, however. Cod catches, once the water cools down should be quite good, by all indications.

MONTAUK

Aboard the **Viking Fleet**, a 40 lb. cod took Sunday's pool and was followed by a couple of big pollock in the 25 lb. class. A few sea bass made a showing also. On the day before, Saturday, 75 cod came over the rail along with a sprinkling of pollock and sea bass for 30 fares.

According to Rich Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** the weekend saw catches on his boats of mixed cod and blackfish. The cod ran up to 20 lbs. and high hook on cod was nine fish. The excellent bluefishing continues at Block Island with slammers to 20 lbs.

A call from Captain John "Wizard" DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** said that he is still having good catches of blackfish and his party had one to 11 lbs. Saturday. Lots of dogfish around and he's picked a couple of cod. John anticipates a solid cod-fishing season once the water temperature starts dropping and the boat will be codding as far into the winter as weather and customers permit.

A call from the charter boat **King Wayne** told of Saturday's trip for Lou Magnum with a mixed bag of blues, blacks, cod and sea bass at Cartwright with the finishing flourishes given to flounder in Fort Pond Bay. Sunday's trip for AT&T saw 50 cod to 25 lbs. come over the rail plus 72 blckfish to 12 lbs. This was all on clam and green crab at SW Ledge.

Capt. Bill Ricca of the charter boat **Alyssa Ann** called to report a fine day of blackfishing up at Little Gull Island on Sunday for Stan Weiss and Bob Santiago. The pair put away 63 tautogs up to 9½ pounds on green crabs.

SOUTH FORK

Please note that the open boat **Wilhelric** out of **Sag Harbor** is now sailing Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday for blackfish and will continue to sail this new schedule as long as people come down and fish are around. This weekend we will be off

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	10:15	11:00	11:00	11:30	10:55	11:40	11:40	—	1:15	1:25	1:25	1:40	10:20	10:50	11/24
FRI.	11:15	—	11:55	—	11:55	—	12:30	12:35	2:10	2:20	2:20	2:35	11:20	11:50	11/25
SAT.	12:00	12:15	12:35	1:00	12:40	1:00	1:35	1:45	3:10	3:25	3:15	3:40	—	12:20	11/26
SUN.	1:00	1:20	1:45	2:05	1:45	2:00	2:40	2:55	4:25	4:45	4:25	4:45	12:55	1:25	11/27
MON.	2:05	2:25	2:55	3:15	2:45	3:05	3:45	4:05	5:55	6:25	5:25	5:55	2:00	2:25	11/28
TUES.	3:10	3:30	4:00	4:15	3:45	4:05	4:45	5:15	7:10	7:40	6:30	7:00	3:00	3:25	11/29
WED.	4:10	4:30	5:00	5:15	4:45	5:10	5:40	6:10	8:10	8:40	7:30	8:00	3:55	4:20	11/30
THURS.	5:05	5:25	5:50	6:10	5:40	6:00	6:35	7:05	9:00	9:35	8:25	8:55	4:50	5:15	12/1

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Manfoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/24	7:01	4:34
FRI. 11/25	7:02	4:33
SAT. 11/26	7:03	4:32
SUN. 11/27	7:04	4:31
MON. 11/28	7:05	4:31
TUE. 11/29	7:06	4:30
WED. 11/30	7:07	4:29

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/24	8:29PM	11:05AM
FRI. 11/25	9:41PM	11:53AM
SAT. 11/26	10:55PM	12:33PM
SUN. 11/27	—	1:06PM
MON. 11/28	12:08AM	1:36PM
TUE. 11/29	1:19AM	2:03PM
WED. 11/30	2:29AM	2:30PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
11/4	11/12	11/20	11/27

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	8:05	**1:55**	8:40	**2:25**
Fri.	9:10	**3:00**	9:45	**3:30**
Sat.	10:10	**4:00**	10:45	**4:30**
Sun.	11:10	**5:00**	11:40	**5:25**
Mon.	11:55	**5:05**	—	**6:15**
Tues.	12:30	**6:30**	12:40	**7:00**
Wed.	1:15	**7:15**	1:25	**7:40**
Thurs.	1:55	**8:00**	2:20	**8:35**

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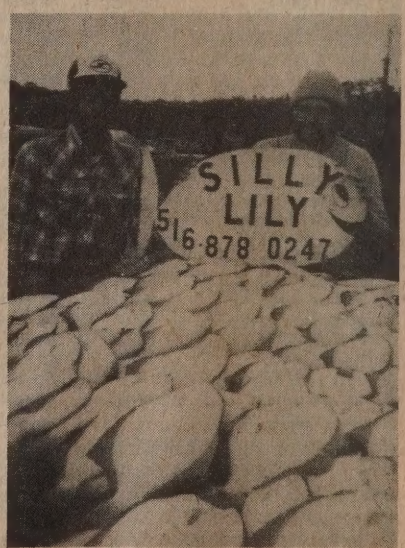
the moon tide and have the flood which should be prime blackfishing conditions.

The Shinnecock open boat **Jenny Rose** relayed word that blackfish action on the offshore wrecks was in top form on Saturday and Sunday with many fares accounting for upwards of 25-30 blacks. Most were in the 3-4 pound class but some ranged to 7 and 8 pounds. The first cod of the season were taken on Sunday with 3 including a 21 pounder, coming aboard. The skipper reminded that they will not be sailing Thanksgiving Day but they will be running a special reduced fare trip for cod on Friday. See their ad for details. Codfish will be the main target from here on in with the boat sailing Saturdays and Sundays only from this weekend on.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Mild weather and good fishing combined to make this past November weekend a memorable one. Flounder fishing seems to be coming into its own despite the late date and it looks like it will be another "winter" flattie season. Codfishing on offshore wrecks provided some very encouraging action and big bluefish continue to amaze everyone as boatmen working outside Moriches and Fire Island Inlets this week did a big job on the fish.



Tom Bauer and Steve Lowenthal put away over 100 flatties up to 2½ lbs. during a recent trip out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in East Moriches.

Rich Chart and Dave Crockett with big blues they checked in at L&M Marine in E. Moriches.

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MORICHES BAY & INLET

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** spoke of a real good weekend with the flatties. The best action was concentrated south of the channel in 5 feet of water near buoys 42 and 43. The fish are big and plentiful with mussels and worms working in the bait department and chumming being an important asset. One of the better scores on the weekend was made by Fred Mulcahey and Rich DePaola who combined to take 70 flounder up to 2½ pounds. Gary reminded that the station will be open through Sunday, November 27th.

From **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches**, Larry Dellaire tabbed it a super weekend with beautiful weather and very good flounder fishing. Big flatties were taken on both tides between buoys 42 and 44 on clams and worms. Mussel chum has been the key to the bigger scores. Larry feels the fishing is just really getting under way now and expects the good fishing will last well into the winter.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Paul Graniello spoke of good flounder fishing for boatmen off of Howell's Point, Bellport, Heckscher Park and in the vicinity of the Smith Point Bridge. Worms and clams are taking the fish and chumming is important. Plenty of blues remained outside both inlets for jiggers and trollers with some very fast action found on Friday and Saturday between Moriches and Fire Island Inlets. White perch are for the taking in Carman's River and Tuthils Creek.

Al "The Shark" Colban said from behind the counter of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** that flatfish fans have been doing a pretty good job on the fish at buoys 4 and 5-Heckscher, buoy 2-Islip, Dickerson Channel, Buoy 27 and on the east side of the Captree bridge. Boatmen working along the beach Friday and Saturday trolled and jigged lots of big bluefish and there was a fair showing of cod along with continued good blackfishing along the Fire Island Ocean Reef. Best cod action has been on the offshore wrecks. For freshwater fans, still plenty of trout ranging anywhere from 8-18" in Bubbles Falls and Rattlesnake Creek.

Over at **Captree**, cod received plenty of attention this weekend despite continued good blackfishing and a pretty fair showing of flounder.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** said that both he on his **Speedy VI**, and Capt. Nick Manzarini of the **Speedy VII** were very satisfied with the codfishing on Saturday and Sunday. Most are in the 10-12 pound range with a few in the 20 pound class mixed in. Largest of the weekend was a 35 pounder. A few sea bass as well as some big blues are mixed with the cod on the wrecks. The Speedy said that 30 fares on Sunday accounted for approximately 80 cod on the Speedy VI. He also reminded that both boats will be sailing on Thanksgiving Day.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** spoke of very good blackfishing on the weekend with Sunday's hi-hook leaving the boat with 40 nice tautogs. Despite the fine fishing, fare interest seems to be leaning towards cod and so with the good showing of the winter king Charlie will begin his codfish runs on Friday, November 25th.

Capt. Carl Passero of the **Captree** open boat **Jib VI** had decided to stick

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Already a dedicated saltwater angler at the young age of 10, Michael Ramm seems mighty pleased with the 17 lb. blue he decked during a November trip aboard the Captree open boat, "Capt. Scotty 3." The big chopper grabbed a six ounce jig and red tube fished atop the Oregon wreck. The youngster was with his dad, Leo at the time.

with the blackfishing which he described as excellent over this past weekend and Friday. He has been working the Fire Island Ocean Reef where most fish range between 2 and 6 pounds with an occasional bulldog to 8 pounds. He will remain on the blackfish run through Sunday, December 4th. On Friday's trip, after treating fares to an inning with big blues outside the inlet Bob Boucher of Holbrook put away 30 blackfish up to 7½ pounds. On Saturday, Dan Cap of Deer Park had an 8¼ pound tautog to go along with 15 other fish. Sunday's trip saw George Forgione of Massapequa Park put away 21 blacks including an 8.10 pound pool fish.

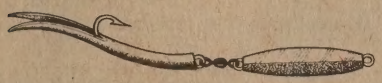
Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** was enthused about the good codfishing of the weekend. Eighteen fares on Sunday accounted for approximately 60 cod in the 8-12 pound class. A few larger fish are mixed in. Hi-hook was Sal Ciulla of Elmont with 6 cod to 22 pounds.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt Scotty 3** was equally enthused about the good showing of wreck cod. Eighty cod came aboard on Saturday including 8 for Phil Bloom who also had a 32 pound pool winner. Most fell into the 8-10 pound class but 10 were in the upper 20 pound class. A few blues and sea bass are mixed with the cod.

Sunday's fishing started off with a good burst of action in the morning but the pace slowed to a pick by noon.

Speaking from **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Mickey Chiarenza told of weighing a 2.9 pound flounder for Mickey Sadowski on Sunday. It was taken at Bergen Point. Mickey was more impressed with the showing of cod on the offshore wrecks this week. Several local private boats did well with the fish. Among them was Ed Torkildsen of the the Tork I. Ed and crew returned to the dock with 25 cod up to 24 pounds along with a mixed bag of blackfish, sea bass and big blues. This was on Saturday. Big bluefish were trolled and jigged outside the inlet by private boats on Friday as well as the weekend.

Over at **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague,** Ralph Angelillo said that boatmen working Massapequa Cove, Amity Cut and Bergen Point enjoyed good flounder fishing over the weekend with many of the fish falling into the 1-2 pound range. Worms and red dyed clams along with mussel and clam chum were accounting for the b better scores. Saturday saw boatmen troll lots of blues off of Robert Mosses State Park and Ralph also knew that a couple of guys setting Maryland crab traps in the Sore Thumb Pocket continue to take plenty of blue claws.



West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

Blues and blacks remain strong on the offshore grounds while some decent codfish catches are starting to be made on a steady basis. The inshore flounder fishing has been anywhere from picky to decent.

Bluefish up to 22 lbs. and blackfish to 6 lbs. were taken during a recent wreck trip aboard the Point Lookout charter boat, "Marie III," by members of the Rockville Center Fire Department.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

From **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore**, Scott said that a lot of beach fishermen on Saturday reported that blues were really hitting the beaches in force. Tins seemed to be producing more than anything. For boaters, the blues could be caught on just about anything.

As for the **Freeport Fleet** word from **Bluefin II and III** is that on both Saturday and Sunday blackfish were worked over with fish coming over the rail to 6 pounds. Carl Bell was high hook for the weekend while John Conklin took the 6 lber. Green crab and clam are the ticket. Captain Sy asked us to let you know he still has a few cod and blackfish openings available.

From the **Capt. Andy II** we learn that the boat continues to sail the two trips daily for flounder, picking away through both tides on fish up to 1½ lbs. in local waters.

Word from the **Super Spray II** is that the weekend saw a definite improvement in the codding, definitely more fish than last weekend. The boat is fishing wrecks and it has been noted that the fish are closer in than last week. Pool fish have been in the 30s.

From the **Capt Al** comes word that on Friday, Saturday and Sunday catches averaged 35 to 45 cod each day. Alex Dvsclere of Freeport bagged four cod. Ivan Ljujiac, Bronx hoisted five cod while John DeGrace of Levittown had 4 cod and Al Campbell was happy with 5 cod, all on Sunday. Saturday's trip saw Grady Mercer of Springfield Gardens with a 32 lber. Mixed catches of sea bass, blues and blacks are also being taken. The skipper predicts a very good cod-fishing season at hand.

Word from the **Miss Freeport II** was of an excellent trip Saturday for cod and blackfish. D. Cland of Queens Village managed 6 cod to 30 lbs. while A. Smith of Brooklyn settled for 4 cod. Eva Jackson had 5 cod and Pete Martin of Queens had 6. The boat totalled 40 cod on Saturday and a solid by-catch of blacks up to 5 lbs. On Sunday, 14 cod was the total for the boat and high hook was 35 blackfish for one lucky angler. Blacks went up to 6 lbs. and cod to 20 lbs. Captain Tony has been working local offshore wrecks.

In nearby **Pt. Lookout** charter boat **Marie III** on Saturday fished 10 members of Barnhill Pub, Queens. In the AM they put away roughly 225 blackfish with the pool going 7 lbs. 12 oz. There were many 3 to 5 lb. fish. In the afternoon, in 30 feet of water off Lido roughly 100 blues were taken in 1½ hours fishing, blues going 10 to 18 lbs. with the pool weighing in at 21 lbs. A crew trip Sunday saw very good blackfishing at the reef with fish running from 2 to 6 lbs. and a pick on

Richie Piazza and Joe and Maureen Martini with the 36.9 lb. striper and 15.4 lb. blue they caught in East Rockaway Inlet on live bunker this fall. Both fish were weighed at Reynold's Reef Fishing Station in Atlantic Beach.

blues on diamond jigs from 10 to 18 lbs. Ken Murray on his first blackfish trip ever bailed 15 of the toothy critters while Steve Kerney Sr. totalled 24. Steve Jr. had 20. By some wicked twist of fate, your reporter who was on this trip managed to be low hook on blackfish BUT high hook on blues. A word must be said about Sunday's weather...it was glorious.

From the **Miss Point Lookout** which was in the shipyard Monday through Friday, sailing resumed Saturday morning for a fair pick on flounder. Ed Larson had 15. Ace, a regular, had a 2 lber. On the afternoon trip catches ranged from 6 to 15 flatties a man. Sunday's AM trip, the catch was 6 to 10 a man with Ben, a regular, taking the pool with a 1¾ lber. Conditions improved and catches did also in the PM, as Matt and Earl French bagged 28 flounder and the pool. The boat fished Swift Creek and the Short Beach CG station.

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** told of some good flounder catches over the weekend in the Flats and at Swift Creek and off the CG station. Regulars Ed Puzio and Bruno Grabiec totalled 45 nice flounder in the flats. Some halfway decent blackfishing was had on the weekend at the Meadowbrook and Long Creek bridges on fiddlers and clam.

From the **Atlantic Beach** charter boat **Kim** we hear from Captain Ron Lepper that he is ending the season's fishing Thursday and that generally it has been a good year. Bass fishing has been as bad as it could be this past week, but Ron bailed out with the

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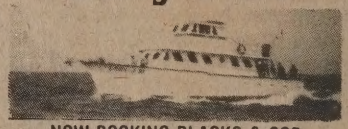

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abundance of giant blues in the area. He asked us to let you know that he is now booking for '84 and that those interested should book early for the May and June '84 moons, which were very productive this year.

Word from Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishng Station** is that the blackfish continue to thin out, but they are still being caught at the Silver Point jetty. Flounder up to 1¼ lbs. have been plentiful on worm and corn chum in Bannister Creek, off the Magnolia Pier, Duck Point and in the hole about 1500 feet east of the AB bridge on the south side. Blues continue to be super for boats trolling in 25 feet of water from Debs to Lido using spoons or umbrellas with fish running 12 to 20 lbs. Highlight of the week was a 6 lb. 1 oz. sea bass caught by Jay York fishing aboard the Four Queens.

Charlie Beckmann at **Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook** wishes to thank all of his customers for another fine year. Charlie wished all happy holidays and hopes to see you next season in the shop which is being

This southern visitor, a 60 lb. wahoo, was landed by Frank Graupe while trolling for tuna S.E. of Jones Inlet. Subscriber photo.

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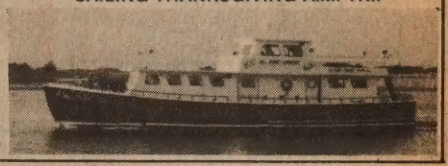

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NEW YORK BIGHT

In the **Sheepshead Bay** area word from Captain Bob of the **Flamingo III** is that while Saturday's bluefishing was only fair, Sunday's was a massacre of all big blues on jigs with tails. Fish ran from 10 to 20 lbs. and according to Bob, one woman passenger had 19 blues. It should be noted she was not high hook. The boat will be staying with bluefish for as long as possible. There are loads of these blue beasts around and they should remain while the water remains warm.

Captain Butch of the **Zephyr** told of good blackfishing Saturday and Sunday. Catches ran from 20 to 70 blacks a man, fish going to 9½ lbs. The boat is working deep wrecks and 17 Fathoms. Butch expects good blackfishing to continue for another month if nothing drastic occurs, like a storm or sudden freeze. A few ling and roughly 55 sea bass to 2 lbs. were also caught Sunday. The boat will be sailing Thanksgiving day and the day following.

A call from the open boat **Pastime II** advised that on Saturday's trip, Mr. Gardener was high hook with 60 fish as a total of sailing both trips that day. Fishing overall has been from good to excellent in Jamaica Bay for flounder from a half to 2¼ lbs. on mussels.

Young Tommy Gatz shows his first weak ever. It was taken near Rose's Grove in Peconic Bay.

North Shore REPORT

with Marty Carrell

Magnificent weekend weather gave private and open and charter boat fishermen a good shot at bottom species over the weekend. Lots of undersized school bass were around and good flounder fishing was available in most inshore areas.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun in **New Rochelle** has sandworms for flounder anglers and says that flatfishing is about the only thing available in the area. **Jack's Bait** on **City Island** has pulled the rental boats but will be open for another weekend. Blackfish are thinning out and flounder are good all over the Eastchester Bay. Tommy cod over one pound are available off the Port Washington Beach. Sandworms and bloodworms (but no more crabs) are on the bait list at Jacks.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sports Shop** reported good flounder fishing on Tuesday and later in the week off Dorsoris Pond, Pryble, and Sea Cliff in Hemstead Harbor. Blackfishing has dropped off, and most of the local bass are sublegal. The best bet may be to go duck shooting and drop a line over for flatties, says Dave. The Shop has sandworms, frozen clams but no crabs.

Dom Cerbone called to say that the **Apache** had a great Saturday of fishing off buoy 24C, Norwalk in 70-80 feet of water. However, Sunday's angling was picky on big fish in shallower areas to 50 feet. Next weekend will be the last one for the open boat, and she will not be sailing on Thanksgiving Day.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Both **Four Winds** and **Ronnie's** were looking at "an awful lot of small bass" with throback ratios of 80 or 90 to 1. Most of the bass are being taken off the Obstruction Buoy, Buoy 13 and Buoy 15 on jigs or while trolling. One ounce diamonds are most effective. There is good blackfishing off buoy 11B, Eaton's and flounder fishermen are working inside the harbors and bays. Ronnie Ferraro has all baits, while George Valentine has frozen clams, green crabs, live eels but no worms.

From **Mount Sinai, Dick's Sporting Goods** reported harbor angling for flounder with some blackfishing, too. Ralph Davenport liked the Middle Grounds and the Pipeline for blackfish, and said that buoy 11 had a lot of sublegal bass wich could be taken by either jigging or trolling. Frozen and fresh clams were available (but no worms) at Ralph's.

Howard DeLeeuw jigged this 31½ lb. striper in Plum Gut. He weighed his prize at Port of Egypt Fishing Station in Southold.

Sutler's in **Port Jefferson** has pulled its rental boats. However, private boats were taking nice catches of flounder inside Conscience Bay and Setauket as well. Sutler's has green crabs, some worms and frozen bait.

NORTH FORK

Ed Kopack at **Warren's** in **Aquebogue** spoke of flounder at the mouth of the Peconic River. Word from the Sound west of Orient was hard to come by. Warren's still has worms and frozen clams.

Jim Dunkirk from the **Port of Egypt** said that flounder fishing on the bay side was picky all the way to Orient but that some of the catches around the point were outstanding. One boat had excellent numbers of flatties to 3 pounds. The Southold Station will be wrapping things up this week and has run out of all bait except clams and green crab.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** described a bangup week of fishing for blackfish and flounder. Petty's Bight and Gull Pond and local creeks were the scenes of flounder fishing activity and the open and charter boats were headed for New London waters for blackfish. White will stay open until colder weather sets in, and reminds that the Blue Albatross and Peconic Star are still running. White still had green crabs, worms and skimmers at the time of this report.

George Porter of the **Brand X** had two superb days of fishing to finish his season with the highlight of each day being the two hours around slack

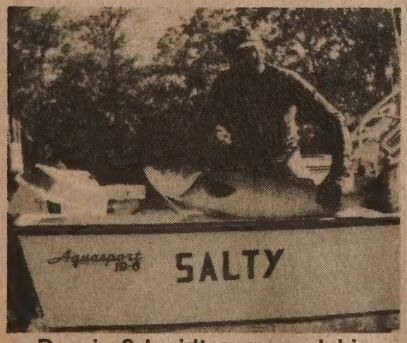
water off deepwater wrecks. On Saturday the boat had a lot of 7-9 pound tautog with at least one 10½ pounder. On Sunday the Moriches Anglers and Great Gun Anglers shared a competitive charter and wound up with 8 fish over 8 pounds as well as another 10½ pound bulldog. Two cod of 4 and 8 pounds were also taken as well as loads of mackerel over the weekend. Porter feels that shallow water blackfishing may be declining now but that wrecks are torrid.

Clark Bellows told us that Larry Ciccotto finished with strong blackfishing last weekend on the **Prime Time II** from **Orient**. Plans are to start up again on the second week in April.

George Rainis called to tell us that the **Blue Albatross**, now sailing as an open boat had two beautiful days down New London way over the weekend. In 50-60' of water off New London and Fisher's Island there were some large tautog plus mackerel and 3 pound pollock. Rainis reminds us that the Blue Albatross will be sailing (as an open boat) through December 4th.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

The weather and the fishing belied the calendar this past weekend as big blues continued to accommodate casters working south shore beaches from Robert Moses to West End Jones Beach. While Sunday was a disappointment to scores of casters who looked for a repeat of Friday and Saturday's action, the weather alone made going fishless tolerable. Friday's best fishing was very likely centered at West End and also at



Dennis Schmidt surpassed his wildest dreams in his quest for a 50 lb. striper. Trolling an umbrella rig on mono at dusk on October 30, the Selden angler put away this huge cow which weighed 60 lbs. 4 oz. on the scale at Angler's Den in Selden.

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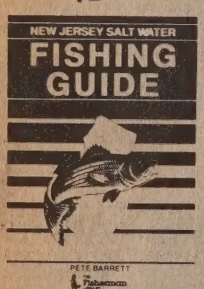

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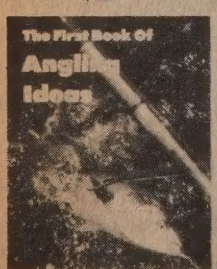

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There is nothing quite like that first striper and it will be a long time before nine-year-old Frederick Karwick forgets his. The 10½ lber. was taken this past fall from the beach at Wildwood State Park. Subscriber photo.

Fields 2 and 4, Robert Moses state Park. While there was a good showing of fish at Field 4 and reports of good fishing at Field 6-Jones Beach on Saturday, the hottest action was unquestionably on the beach just east of the jetty at Democrat Point. Here, casters literally stacked big blues like cordwood before giving way to weary arms.

Action on both days was confined to tins (no tube needed) and occurred during the bottom of the tide at midday. Most fish ranged between 10 and 16 lbs.

The Moriches shore seemed to be lacking in action on the weekend, according to Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue** who told of just a couple of blues picked west of the inlet on Sunday morning. There was a good showing of fish early in the week on both Monday and windy Tuesday. In the slop on Tuesday, Neil Sleuter, George Deitz and Jim Belmonte used bait with six ounces of lead to take a mess of big blues. Jim had the largest of the bunch, a 19 lb. 14 oz. slammer.

There were also some fish to the west early in the week. On Monday, hard fishing L.I.B.B.A. member Lisa Habl, used bait to put an 18 lb. blue on the beach at Democrat while fishing with her dad Newt.

For all those who expected word of good bass action at Montauk this past week, there is only negative news to report. We were unable to track down even a single striper report, this despite enough guys trying and plenty of bait at the Point. Even the south side beaches disappointed as the bluefish action found to the west never materialized here. All this has prompted Johnny Kronuch to call it a season as he made Saturday his last day.

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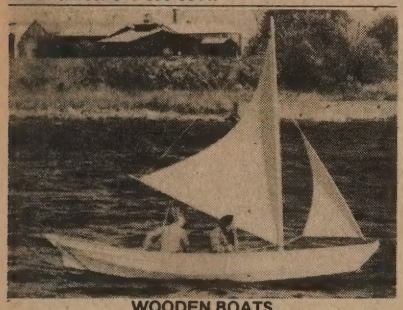

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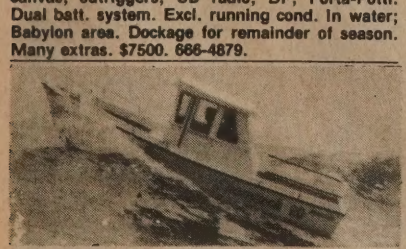


SHAMROCK KEEL DRIVE—20' & new 26' hardtop, gas or diesel; 3 models. Also Mako & Cruiser, Inc. Demo avail. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400/728-0922.

1977 F.G. Columbia SF, Pipewelders tower, Murray chair, twin 270. Full elec. Located Long Island. 203-336-0131.

1979 MAKO 19' 140 hp Evinrude w/PT&T, CB radio, depth finder, swim platform. All canvas & cushions. Like new cond.; w/Shoreline trailer. Will Demo. $8500. Eves: 516-496-7336.

1980 STARCRAFT 18' Center Console, 60 hp Evinrude & trailer. Mint. $4995. 1975 Starcraft 18' center console, 1981 70 hp Evinrude & trailer. $3995. DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 516-283-6736.

19' 6" AQUASPORT Family Fisherman, 140 hp I/O, Shoreline trailer, power winch, graph recorder, CB radio, outriggers. Mint. $7500. Days: 567-2332. Nites: 758-6644.

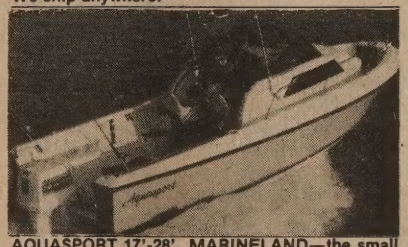
SEA OX 17'-23', CC & Walkarounds. Phoenix 27'-38'. Stamas 24'-32' cabins & walkarounds. Glassport 17'-20' Runabouts. Johnson Motors, 2-235 hp. Most models in stock. You'll love our prices. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR SALES, Sayville, NY, 516-567-3313.

MANNINO SHARPIE, 20', 1983 w/Mariner 90 hp. Loaded, excellent, like new. Will demonstrate. Asking $6,500. 516-888-7144.

1982 PRIVATEER 20' Demo, center console w/steering. Excl. cond. $4200. PORT OF EGYPT MARINE, 516-765-2445.

EVINRUDE

NEW 1983 EVINRUDES 1983
2-$305; 4-$498; 4.5-$600; 7.5-$730; 9.9-$930; 15-$1020; 25-$1220; 35-$1378; 50-$2100; 60-$2228; 70-$2400; 90-$2800; 115-$3100; 140-$3600; 150-$4300; 175-$4700; 235-$4900. ELECTRA MARINE, INC., 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.



AQUASPORT 17'-28'. MARINELAND—the small boat specialists. Bronx, 212-824-4000. Mattituck, 516-298-4020. Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

17' WELLCRAFT, 85 hp Evinrude, Ray Jeff flasher, compass, auto. bilge, anchor, 2 gas tanks. Extras. $700. 516-PY 8-5577 After 4PM. Ask for Andy.

1978 MAKO 21/Evinrude 200 with Bennett trim tabs, some canvas, new bilge pump, antennas for VHF, CB, Loran C. Motor used only four years-new head last year. Full electronics optional. Boat in water at Star Island Yacht Club for sale to best offer at end of season. Getting larger Mako. Demonstration rides available. Contact Al Ristori at 201-334-8059 or leave message at Star Island, 516-668-5052.

MID SEASON DEMO. 25' Grady White Trophy w/hardtop/radio box, full curtains. H.T. rod holders, Porta-Potti, chain pipe Binn. Ctls, windshield wiper, 4 FL rod holders, outriggers w/spreaders, graphics, anti foul bottom, 2 batt & switch. Fuel primer, pump tach, voltmeter, Johnson 235 hp V-6 35.6 MPH boat F/T. $31,995.
Grady White 1979 Fisherman 20' 4", twin 70 hp Johnson. New Big T steering. Extras. $7995.
22' Grady White Tournament 1981, 80 hrs. Dual console, 170 hp OMC I/O N/T & night cover. Loaded w/extras. $17,595 Firm.
1973 Caravell 17' 100 hp, 1969 new Teleflex steering. $2550.
1968 Glaspar 16' 35 hp Johnson, 1981. $2400.
1969 Larson Shark 18' 8", 115 hp Evinrude 76, $3900.
16' 10" Grady White Display model, 60 hp Johnson. Canvas, compass, lounge seat, pedestal seat-5 pass. Flush R/H, horn, batt., turn key & go. $9,650.
1976 Aristocraft 120 hp OMC I/O, Hardtop. $3900.
16' Privateer Bay Boat, display boat. Center console, 35 hp Johnson. $5275.
EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE CORP., 210 Beach 2nd St., Far Rockaway, NY 11691; 212-327-3168.

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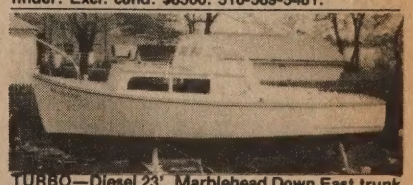
Ken Turco, Hampton Bays, sell all Sisu 22', 26' & 30' boats. Center Console, Bass Boats, Lobster Boats. 516-728-5127 after 5PM; or SISU, 603-749-4452 Days.

1982 PRIVATEER 24', center console, outriggers, 1979 200 hp Johnson. Excl. cond. $7500. PORT OF EGYPT MARINE, 516-765-2445.

1974 19' MAKO, 115 Johnson, E-Z Loader trailer. Full canvas, outriggers, downrigger, VHF, depth finder. Excl. cond. $8500. 516-589-5481.



TURBO—Diesel 23'. Marblehead Down East trunk cabin Bass Boat. Loran, CB, VHF, recorder, 400 mile range, 2 gal/hr at 17 knots. Full canvas; Porta-Potti. Sleeps 2. Immaculate. New boat coming; price reduced. Eves: 212-932-7153.

F.L. TRIPP Angler Cuttyhunk bass boat, 22' I/B, cabin model, FWC, canvas. Full electronics, stern controls. And more. Serious offers only. 516-567-9249 Eves.

1976 26' PACEMAKER, center console w/cuddy cabin. Chrysler I/B. Excl. cond. $16,000. PORT OF EGYPT MARINE, 516-765-2445.

Continued On Next Page

EVINRUDE® MAKO
★ WHOLESALE ★ RETAIL ★ EXPORT ★ WHOLESALE ★ RETAIL
AL GROVER'S (516) 378-0510 AL GROVER'S (516) 378-0510
Grover built DIESEL CUSTOM DIESEL POWER
AL GROVER'S (516) 378-0510

1980 26' GROVERBUILT 120 hp diesel 15kts at 3gl per hr. Teak decks, Loran c, DF, VHF, CB & much more. Perfect cond. 516-775-4531.

SEA OX ON THE NORTH SHORE: 17', 20', 23', Walkaround cabin & center console. Also commercial. Good value; great ride. GLEN COVE MARINA, INC., 76 Shore Rd., Glen Cove, New York 11542. 516-676-1377.

MARINE ENGINES, 4 cyl-130 hp, for Chris, Mercruiser, OMC; complete; rebuilt spring, 1982. Excl. cond. Each 1300 w/trans; 1475 w/trans. 516-957-9531 after 6 & wkends.

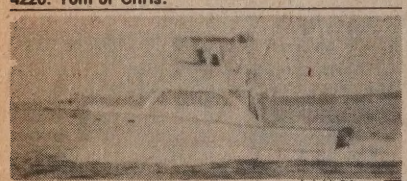
1982 RENKEN 21' cuddy cabin 307 Chevy V8 I/B OMC 800 outdrive. Depth finder, fish finder, AM&FM CB radio. Electric winch. Very lo hrs. $12,500 Mint cond. Will demo. 516-473-8291

19' MAKO 115 hp Johnson. Full canvas. Shoreline trlr., electronics & access. Excl. cond.; will demo. $6700. Eves: 212-967-9095.

25' TROJAN "Express" 318 Chrysler, solid teak decks. All fiberglass hull. Sleeps 4. Very clean. AL GROVERS, 516-FR 8-0510. Over 30 clean used boats in stock.

TWIN CHRYSLERS, #426B, 290 hp, FWC w/transmissions, 1100 hrs. Good cond.; will sell singly. $500 ea. 516-473-5043.

1970 38' Bertram Tower, Rybo chair, 2-853 GM's majored.
1981 32' Blackfin, turbo cats. Loaded.
1966 31 Bertram Bahia Mar. Recond; ready for engines
1977 31 Columbia, twin 270, tower. Full elec.
1974 28 Luhrs Sedan, 225 Chrysler
1978 26' SeaRay Express Cruiser I/O
1974 25 Chris Craft Tournament tower, twin 130
1983 235 Mako 235 Evinrude
1979 26' Slickcraft
26' Bluefin - tower, fresh engines. Equipped.
20' Shamrock cuddy, 225 Merc. Nice.
28' 1967 Hatteras flybridge, twin 225
1979 28' Topaz, tower, twin MTD 40 diesels. Full elec. w/fighting chair.
18' CVX 18 Carlson by Glastron
Call SEA JAC BROKERS, Jacksons Marina. 728-4220. Tom or Chris.



34 KarlTank Sportfisherman 1966 Wood. Twin screw 225 FWC, rebuilt engine 1982. Equip. for deep sea fishing. Ready to go. Has to be seen. After 6PM. 516-728-3802.

41 '68 HATTERAS 8V53s SF, radar, Loran, Rybo chair, microwave. Nice $89,000. 516-643-2882; 516-543-7120.

AQUASPORT 1980 24' 6 CCC w/7000 lb. Trl, 235 Johnson, 35 Johnson, dual Morse controls, tuna tower, elec. box, DF, VHF, CB, AM/FM, SW washdown, bow rail. Teak fish platform, outriggers, downriggers, pole holders. Full instruments. Lit for nightfishig. Full canvas extras. $18,950 Firm. Days 543-7222. Eves: 724-8710.

1977 22' Crestliner I/O 260 hp Mercruiser. Excl. cond. 90 gal. gasoline tank, Loran, paper recorder, sea temp. gauge, VHF, gin pole. Many, many extras. $11,300. 212-343-5226.

26' PACEMAKER Wahoo, 10' beam, 270 Crusader, C/C w/cuddy, legal head. Full electronics; Loran C, fighting chair, gin pole, flying gaff-all new. SW Washdown. 212-474-6422.

2 Documented Charter Boats for Sale: 55' - 671 diesel. Lic. 42 +2, all elec. Excl. shape; now sailing. $30,000. 34' Post Sportfisherman, 6 pass.; compl. elec. - $17,000. Must sell. 842-5928.

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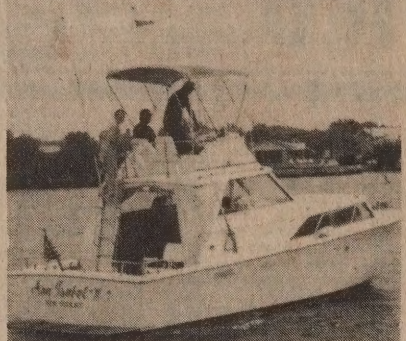
GARVEY 18' w/40 hp Evinrude, console, swivel seats. New fiberglass job on plywood. Great shape. Good bass, clam or duck boat. Many extras. $1500 Negot. 516-883-6518 Eves.



PACEMAKER 1970 31' Express Cruiser, all fiberglass, twin 1978 250 hp FWC engines. Loaded w/electronics & extras. Rigged for serious sport fishing. Days: 212-WA 9-8956. Eves: 516-541-9707.

45 HATTERAS
1973 Sportfish w/tower 871s w/lo hrs. Good electronics. Boat in excl. cond. Good buy at $138,000. NAUTICAL SERVICE YACHT SALES, 305-848-6292. Call for other fine yachts.

1977 140 hp Mercury w/controls. Low hours. Sacrifice $1500. 889-4765.

Twin 120 hp Mercruisers, engines rebuilt 1982. Outdrives rebuilt 1983. Running in boat now; will Demo. Transom plates & bell housings incl. You need nothing more. Complete $2750. 516-842-1579.

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$2.69 Buys Gallon of non-toxic anti-freeze for FW systems. BURCK, 526 City Island Av., Bronx, NY. 212-885-1559.

50% off List Price on all winter covers in stock. BURCK, 526 City Island Av., Bronx, N.Y. 212-885-1559

Electronics Pkg.—standard VHF, Cobra CB, Mecca 6" white line chart recorder. Complete pkg. only. Make offer. 516-567-9249.

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100% Stainless steel marine prods: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpit. Custom & standard products avail. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave. & Hwy. 35, Neptuns City, NJ 07753. 201-988-8818. Send $2.25 for complete catalog.

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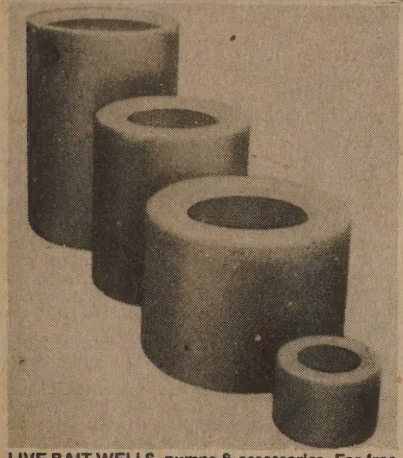

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On Water Boat Deliveries: U.S.C.G. Licensed captains. MARINE SURVEY SERVICE, 516-842-5928/757-7041.

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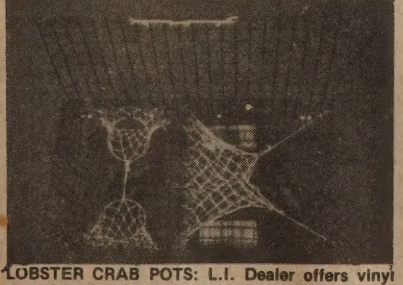

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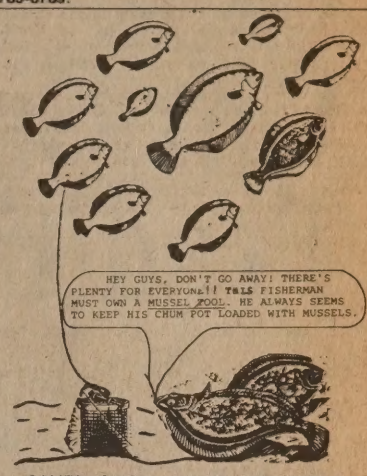
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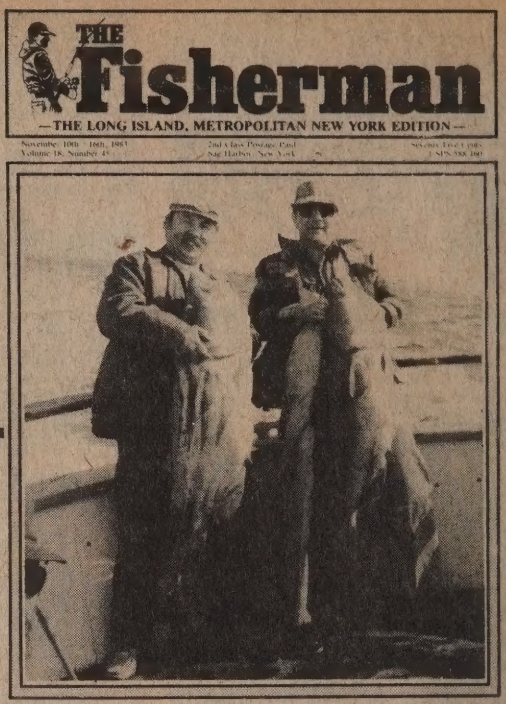

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